highly malleable standard with "an inherent subjectiveness about it which would allow a jury to impose liability on the basis of the jurors' tastes or views, or perhaps on the basis of their dislike of a particular expression." Hustler, 485 U. S., at 55 (internal quotation marks omitted). In a case such as this, a jury is "unlikely to be neutral with respect to the content of [the] speech," posing "a real danger of becoming an instrument for the suppression of... 'vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasan[t]" expression. Bose Corp., 466 U.S., at 510 (quoting New York Times, 376 U. S., at 270). Such a risk is unacceptable; "in public debate [we] must tolerate insulting, and even outrageous, speech in order to provide adequate 'breathing space' to the freedoms protected by the First Amendment." Boos v. Barry, 485 U. S. 312, 322 (1988) (some internal quotation marks omitted). What Westboro said, in the whole context of how and where it chose to say it, is entitled to "special protection" under the First Amendment, and that protection cannot be overcome by a jury finding that the picketing was outrageous.

Snyder v. Phelps, 131 S.Ct. 1207, 179 L. Ed. 2d 172 (2011), Slip Op. at 12-13.

Plaintiffs' argument that their emotional distress claim should survive because the court in <u>Branda v. Sanford</u>, 97 Nev. 643, 648, 637 P.2d 1223, 1227 (1981) held that severe emotional distress could manifest as "hysterical and nervous... nightmares, great nervousness and bodily illness and injury" is irrelevant – Plaintiffs don't even allege that level of emotional distress. Indeed, the Complaint, and now the Opposition, is completely devoid of any factual evidence of emotional distress actually incurred by Plaintiff Willick. And of course, despite its claims to the contrary, his corporation law firm cannot have emotional distress since it is not even human!

Astonishingly, Plaintiffs also claim that the emotional impact of Defendants' speech on Plaintiffs is subject to "discovery" (Opp. At 19:23-20:1). One would hope that Plaintiffs' own emotional state would be well known to them – it is certainly not subject to discovery from Defendants!

#### 2. <u>False Light</u>.

A cause of action for "false light" invasion of privacy requires that "(a) the <u>false</u> light in which the other was placed <u>would be highly offensive to a reasonable person</u>, and (b) the actor had <u>knowledge of or acted in reckless disregard as to the falsity</u> of the publicized matter and the false light in which the other would be placed. <u>Franchise Tax Bd.</u>, of Cal., v. Hyatt, 130 Nev. Adv. Op. 71, 335 P.3d 125, 141 (2014). Here there is no privacy that was intruded, there is no

false statement of fact, and there is no evidence that Defendants knew or acted in reckless disregard as to the falsity of the publicized matter.

#### 3. Business Disparagement.

The tort of business disparagement requires a falsity, and requires proving special damages. As stated in NRCP 9(g) "[w]hen items of special damage are claimed, they shall be specifically stated. "Proof of special damages is an essential element of business disparagement." Clark Cty. Sch. Dist. v. Virtual Ed. Software, 125 Nev. 374, 387, 213 P.3d 496, 505 (2009). Here there is no proof whatsoever of any damages.

Consequently, the claim of conspiracy must also necessarily fail.

#### C. PLAINTIFFS FAILED TO MAKE A PRIMA FACIE CASE FOR RICO.

Plaintiffs' Opposition appears to "throw away" their RICO claim. Their sole argument for maintaining this ridiculous cause of action is: "Defendant admit that Plaintiffs have pled at least one crime under the RICO umbrella. This alone should be substantial evidence for a prima facie showing that the Plaintiffs will prevail on their claims." (Opp., at 20:13-15.)

First, a conclusory recitation of legal elements in a Complaint does not constitute "prima facie evidence." Not only is the Complaint utterly devoid any factual support for a RICO claim, but now so is the Opposition. The following is the sole allegation in the Complaint for RICO cause of action that would qualify as a "RICO related crime" under NRS 207.360:

Defendants, in the course of their enterprise, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, engaged in an act, practice or course of business or employed a device, scheme or artifice which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person by means of a false representation or omission of a material fact that Defendants know to be false or omitted, Defendants intend for others to rely on, and results in a loss to those who relied on the false representation or omission in at least two transactions 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 within 4 years and in which the aggregate loss or intended loss is more than \$650. (NRS 205.377).

Yet, the allegation is completely devoid of any facts to support it, and does not even allege that the crime somehow happened to Plaintiffs as required in a RICO claim. (<u>Hale v. Burkhardt</u>, 104 Nev. 632, 637-638, 764 P.2d 866 (1988).) The allegation fails to identify any particular instance

or circumstance of such purported criminal act. It is certainly a far cry from the requirement that RICO claims be alleged, let alone proven, with the "same degree of specificity is called for as in a criminal indictment or information." (<u>Id</u>.)

Plaintiffs also do not dispute that the remaining "crimes" alleged in the complaint are not even RICO related crimes as required by NRS 207.360.

# D. PLAINTIFFS ADMIT THAT THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS THEIR NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGMENT FOR LACK OF SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION.

Plaintiffs fail to even address Defendants' argument that this Court should dismiss Plaintiffs' ninth cause of action for copyright infringement for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Such failure is an implied admission.

Federal courts clearly have original and exclusive jurisdiction over copyright claims (28 U.S.C. 1338(a)). There is no excuse whatsoever, other than to try to unnecessarily run up Defendants' legal bills, for Plaintiffs to have included this purported claim in their complaint.

# VII. PLAINTIFFS' COUNTER-MOTION FOR FEES SHOULD BE DENIED, AND DEFENDANTS' REQUEST FOR FEES, COSTS, AND \$10,000 PURSUANT TO NRS 41.670(1)(B) SHOULD BE GRANTED.

Plaintiffs' counter-motion for fees and costs and their request for another \$10,000 pursuant to NRS 41.670(b)(2) and 41.670 (3)(a)-(b) is meritless. The Court can only grant such motion if it finds that Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion is "frivolous or vexatious." Given the myriad of evidence and legal authority proffered by Defendants in connection with their motion, such finding would be unsupportable.

By contrast, however, Plaintiffs' complaint and Opposition to this motion are the very definition of frivolous. Other than the recitation of parties and the statements at issue, the 26 page Complaint simply recites legal elements, or fails to even do that (see for example, Plaintiffs' second cause of action for negligent infliction of emotional distress that fails to allege a duty, a breach or causation; see also, the RICO allegations that recites a myriad of non-RICO related crimes and only one RICO related crime, and then does so with absolutely no facts; see

also Plaintiffs' ninth cause of action for the copyright infringement over which the Court has no subject matter jurisdiction). (More details on the inadequacy of the Complaint are set forth in Defendant's pending 12(b)(5) motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim.)

Moreover, when faced with Defendants' present anti-SLAPP motion, which this Court must, and Plaintiffs certainly should have, treated as one for summary judgment, the Opposition appears to been "slapped together" without meeting any of the evidentiary requirements needed to defeat the anti-SLAPP motion. The Opposition was "supported" by a single short declaration from Plaintiff Willick who in a conclusory single sentence purported to attest to "everything." That type of "evidence" is inadmissible – it lacks foundation for the factual claims made in the Opposition, constitutes hearsay as to others, constitutes inadmissible character evidence as to others, and the list of objections goes on...

The Opposition also fails to even attempt to support its RICO claim with facts, fails to address the Court's lack of subject matter jurisdiction over federal copyright claims, fails to address the fact that numerous of the statements at issue have been expressly found to constitute "opinion" as a matter of law as set forth in Defendants' moving papers, fails to allege any facts constituting emotional distress, fails to list any facts of financial damages, fails to address its claim for business disparagement except as part of a title in a section of the Opposition, among other deficiencies. It also fails to explain how Plaintiffs can with a straight face maintain this lawsuit while disseminating their own (worse) disparaging statements about Defendants as set forth in the moving papers at 7:5-18).

Indeed, under these circumstances, the Court can also award fees and costs to Defendants pursuant to Eighth Judicial Court Rule 7.60(b) or Rule 11 which permit the payment of attorney's fees and costs in the form of sanctions for filing frivolous oppositions and for unreasonably and vexatiously increasing litigation costs for their opponent.

As discussed in the moving papers, Plaintiffs have filed identical lawsuits, are a romantic couple who are representing each other in the suits (clearly to be able to recover attorneys' fees), and are pursuing this case despite their obvious lack of evidence to support their claims.

This nowrepetitive tactic by Plaintiffs, who are both lawyers and do not have to pay for legal representation, to stifle legally permitted criticism of them should be stopped.

The Court, indeed free societies, should not tolerate this type of behavior by anyone, let alone by officers of the Court.

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above and in Defendants' moving papers, Defendants respectfully request that the Court:

- a) grant this anti-SLAPP motion in its entirety;
- b) dismiss the action in its entirety with prejudice;
- c) award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to Defendants pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(a) or any other statute that the Court deems appropriate, in an amount to be shown in a separate hearing;
- d) award additional sums to Defendants in the sum of \$10,000 pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(b); and
  - e) order such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: March 9, 2017

Attorney for: VETERANS IN

POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

and STEVE W. SANSON

Anat Levy, Esq.

NV Bar No. 12250

Anat Levy & Associates, P.C.

5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421

Las Vegas, NV 89142

Cell: (310) 621-1199

Alevy96@aol.com

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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I am over the age of 18 and am not a party to the within action.

On this date I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the document entitled REPLY IN

#### SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

PURSUANT TO NRS 41.650 et. seq. on the below listed recipients by requesting the court's wiznet website to E-file and E-serve such document at emails listed below.

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

JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com

G Law 320 E. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 105 Las Vegas, NV 89104 (702) 217-7442 alex@alexglaw.com

Alex Ghoubadi, Esq.

**Courtesy Copy:** 

Maggie McLetchie, Esq. McLetchie Shell

702 E. Bridger Ave., Ste. 520

Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 728-5300

Maggie@nvlitigation.com

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

Executed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017, in Las Vegas, NV

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$1 \mid$	SUPP	Down A. Leavest
2	Anat Levy, Esq. (State Bar No. 12550) ANAT LEVY & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	CLERK OF THE COURT
3	5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421	
	Las Vegas, NV 89142	
4	Phone: (310) 621-1199	
5	E-mail: <u>alevy96@aol.com</u> ; Fax: (310) 734-1538 Attorney for: DEFENDANTS VETERANS IN PC	NITICS INTERNATIONAL INC. AND
6	STEVE SANSON	LITTES INTLICUTATIONAL, INC. AND
_		
<i>'</i>	DICTDICT	COUDT
8	DISTRICT ( CLARK COUNT	
9		
10	MARSHALL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW	) CASE NO. A-17-750171-C
10	GROUP,	) DEPT NO . VVIII (10)
11	Plaintiffs,	) DEPT. NO.: XVIII (18)
12	i idilitiiis,	) Hearing Date: 3/14/2017
12	VS.	) Time: 9:00 a.m.
13		) )
14	STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA; CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; DON	<ul><li>(Filed concurrently with Reply in</li><li>Support of Defendants' anti-SLAPP</li></ul>
15	WOOOLBRIGHTS; VETERNAS IN POLITICS	) motion.]
1.6	INTERNATIONAL, INC.; SANSON	)
16	CORPORATION; KAREN STEELMON; and	
17	DOES 1 THROUGH X	
18	Defendants.	
19		_ /
19	SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARA	TION OF STEVE SANSON
20		
21	<u>IN SUPPORT OF ANT</u>	I-SLAPP MOTION
22		

### I, STEVE SANSON, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a defendant in the within action. I make this Supplemental Declaration in support of VIPI's and my anti-SLAPP motion. I make this Supplemental Declaration based on my personal knowledge, except as to matters stated to be based on information and belief. I am competent to testify as to the truth of these statements if called upon to do so.

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- 2. I am a decorated U.S. veteran who served in active battle in the U.S. Marine Corp. for six years in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. I also served an additional six years as an active reservist with the U.S. Army. Contrary to Plaintiffs' allegation, I have not been diagnosed with PTSD; I am however, 100% combat-related disabled. I have seen the best and the worst in people under extreme circumstances, including as a former chaplain for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Marine Corps League.
- 3. In 2005, I became the President of VIPI, a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(4) corporation. To my knowledge, VIPI is not in violation of any charitable organization laws, and I do not have any idea to what Plaintiffs are referring by making such a statement.
- 4. Since becoming President of VIPI, I have made it our "mission" to ensure that VIPI advocates on behalf of Veterans and roots out corruption wherever it may hide. VIPI's philosophy is that veterans did not die overseas, get maimed and put their lives on the line to preserve our democracy, just to have it corroded by our own corrupt public servants.
- 5. In my capacity as VIPI's President, I routinely testify on VIPI's behalf before the Nevada State Legislature. I participate in Town Hall meetings, County Commission meetings, Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings, Judicial Selection Committee meetings and other government meetings. I am also often called upon to give the invocation at public meetings.
- 6. VIPI and I (through my work for VIPI) have received numerous commendations and awards from local, state and federal officials and bodies. Among them are certificates of recognition and/or appreciation from the Las Vegas City Council, the North Las Vegas City Council, the Henderson City Council, former U.S. Representative for Nevada, Jon Porter, former U.S. Representative for Nevada, Shelley Berkeley, and former U.S. Senator for Nevada, John Ensign. I also was the third veteran named "Veteran of the Month" by Governor Brian Sandoval, Governor Gibbons appointed me to the Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery Advisory Board, and I was named one of Nevada's Distinguished Men in the 2016 Distinguished Men and Women Magazine.

- 7. VIPI's accomplishments are significant as well. Under my leadership, VIPI was instrumental in, among other things, creating Veterans' Court in Nevada. It got laws passed preventing veteran disability pay from being used in calculating spousal support. It got the passage of DMV veteran identification stickers to be put on Nevada drivers' licenses so that police who stop veterans can de-escalate potential violence. It got veteran de-escalation classes to become mandatory in police academy training, and worked to get a USO lounge at McCarren Airport for service personnel to use between flights.
- 8. VIPI also puts out a blog and writes articles, and hosts a weekly internet radio show that my collegues at VIPI host, in which we interview government officials and election candidates to educate the public about pressing issues. Guests have included almost every public official in Nevada. VIPI has also developed a candidate endorsement process where distinguished guests from the community moderate and interview judicial and political candidates and vote on who to endorse based on their qualifications and moral fortitude to refuse corruption. To ensure the independence of the panel, I disqualify myself from voting and do not provide any questions to any panel members or to candidates either directly or indirectly. VIPI has developed such a strong local following that Nevada whistleblowers now seek out VIPI to help them expose wrongdoing. Over the years, VIPI has exposed numerous corrupt politicians, political and judicial candidates and others, including most recently, Judge Rena Hughes who is, on information and belief, now being investigated by the Judicial Disciplinary Commission for the actions that VIPI exposed.
- 9. Plaintiffs' claim that VIPI never exposed anyone because it purportedly didn't comment on former Judge Steve Jones and present Education Trustee Kevin Childs' alleged wrongdoing is simply wrong. Both Jones and Childs appeared on VIPI's radio show, both were the subject of articles disseminated by VIPI, I attended parts of former Judge Jones' trial and sent a letter to the federal judge in the case on behalf of VIPI regarding Jones' sentencing. And, I spent over seven hours in a recent Trustee meeting to try to speak publicly regarding the Kevin Childs controversy.

10.	Also, contrary to Plaintiff's allegations, I do all this for free. I believe that "if you
turn a blind e	ye or a deaf ear to corruption, you are just as guilty of the wrongdoing as the
perpetrators."	VIPI has never taken payment in exchange for writing or exposing any story and
do not draw a	salary from VIPL. And, contrary to Plaintiff's allegations, VIPL has never been
hired by Loui	s Schneider or anyone else to issue a "smear campaign" against Abrams or
Plaintiff.	

- In a stated in my Initial Declaration filed with the moving papers, I took down the January 12, 2017 post which inadvertently omitted the intended commas as soon as I realized, just a few days later, the ambiguity caused by the error. I then promptly issued a clarification on behalf of VIPI and circulated the clarified statement to all the same entities who received the original statement. To my knowledge, there are no more copies of the original ambiguous statement available for public view through any venues that VIPI or I control or administer. If there are, then VIPI would be willing to take them down.
- 12. I have never met nor do I know the defendants in the 2012 defamation case that Plaintiffs filed other veterans entitled Willick v. Jere Beery et. al., case no. A12661766-C. Dated this 9th day of March, 2017 in Las Vegas, NV.

Steve Sanson

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE						
2	2						
3	I am over the age of 18 and am not a party to	I am over the age of 18 and am not a party to the within action.					
4	On this date I requested that a true and correc	t copy of the document entitled					
5	5 SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF STEVE SA	ANSON IN SUPPORT OF ANTI-SLAPP					
6	6 MOTION TO DISMISS be E-served via the Eighth J	udicial District Court's wiznet E-file and E					
7	7 serve online system to the below recipients at their be	serve online system to the below recipients at their below-stated Email addresses:					
8	8						
9	[] Jemmer Abrams, Esq.	ex Ghoubado, Esq.					
10	10	Law DE Charleston Plyd Sto 105					
11		E. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 105 Vegas, NV 89104					
12	10 11 ` ′	2) 217-7442					
13	are.	x@alexglaw.com					
	Countages Course						
14	Maggie McLetchie, Esq.						
15	McLetchie Shell 702 E. Bridger Ave., Ste. 520						
16	16 Las Vegas, NV 89101						
17	17 (702) 728-5300						
18	Maggie@nvlitigation.com						
19	I declare under penalty of perjury under the la	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the					
20	foregoing is true and correct.						
21	Executed this 9th day of March 2017, in Las	Executed this 9th day of March 2017, in Las Vegas, NV					
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7	AFFT 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	DISTRICT COURT						
7	CLARK COUNTY,	NEVADA					
8	MARSHALS, WILLICK and WILLICK LAW)	Case No.:	A-17-750171-C				
9	GROUP, ) Plaintiff,	Department:	XIX				
10	vs. )						
11	)		7 1				
12	STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA; ) CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; )	-	March 14, 2017				
13	DON WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.;	Hearing time:	9:00 a.m.				
14	SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN  STEELMON; and DOES I THROUGH X,						
15	Defendant.						
16							
17	AFFIDAVIT OF MARSHAL S. WILLIC OPPOSITION TO ANTI-SLAPP SPI	K IN SUPPOR ECIAL MOTIO	T OF PLAINTIFF'S N TO DISMISS				
18	PURSUANT TO NRS AND	41.650 et. seq	* * *				
19	COUNTERMOTION FOR ATTOI	RNEY'S FEES	AND COSTS				
20	STATE OF NEVADA )						
21	COUNTY OF CLARK )		2				
22	I, MARSHAL S. WILLICK, do solemnly swear to testify herein to the truth, the						
23	whole truth and nothing but the truth.	whole truth and nothing but the truth.					
24							
	Page 1 of	14					

On February 11, 2015, Assembly Bill 140 was introduced. I and several other attorneys testified against portions of the bill and Steve Sanson testified in favor of the bill. After much of the legally objectionable provisions were removed, it was passed in a significantly altered form around May 17, 2015; the legislative session ended shortly thereafter.

Approximately six months later, I saw Steve Sanson at the courthouse. I am familiar with Steve Sanson and VIPI's "smear campaigns" as I am on his email list and receive his mass defamatory e-mail blasts about judges and other elected officials on a regular basis.

I have regularly assisted legitimate military and veteran's groups in many ways over many years, and I had no interest in having any inadvertent conflict with anyone claiming to be in favor of working for veteran's issues, so when I saw Mr. Sanson I said "hello." We spoke briefly, he invited me on his radio show on the proposed subject of "military members in family court," and again in an effort to deescalate any perceived conflict with him, I accepted his invitation.

On November 14, 2015, I appeared on the VIPI radio show. I was immediately sandbagged with profanity-laced shouting, but I nevertheless attempted to explain the concept of "equal protection under law" despite the interviewers'

For example, I am one of the creators of the "Deployed Parents' Custody Act" (now part of NRS chapter 125C), my office has repeatedly been named the recipient of the ABA Military Pro Bono Project Outstanding Services Award, and I have been a long-standing participant in "Operation Stand By," providing free legal assistance to military members and JAG officers worldwide.

cursing, claims of "special privilege," and assertions that the "14th Amendment should not apply" to them.2

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I don't know whether the interview was ever actually posted on the internet because when I later clicked the link to the interview, a message appeared indicating that the recording "could not be found." Apparently this is because the interview contained so much of Sanson's foul-mouthed screaming that it reflected badly on him and his organization.

I heard nothing from the VIPI Defendants thereafter about the interview, AB 140, or anything else. The VIPI Defendants did not post any articles or material and the recording of the interview was not accessible from their website. In other words, for about 18 months after AB 140 was passed, there was nothing (other than the interview which was not accessible online) disseminated by the VIPI defendants on the matter. No further legislation or other issue was or is pending on that subject.

On December 25, 2016, over a year and a half after AB 140 had any significance to the public or was given any attention by the VIPI defendants, they were paid by Louis Schneider, Esq. to launch a "smear campaign" against my fiancé Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq. in an effort to coerce and intimidate her into withdrawing a sanctions motion she filed against Schneider in a divorce case that I have no part of After the VIPI Defendants disseminated a series of defamatory material against Ms. Abrams, it is my understanding that they ran a background check on Ms. Abrams to find information about her, and found nothing disparaging.

<sup>24</sup> 

<sup>2</sup> The interview is posted at http://www.willicklawgroup.com/audio/ and a transcript of it is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The contents of both the audio and transcript are incorporated here by reference.

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During their quest to find information about Ms. Abrams to use in the "smear campaign" intended to malign her reputation, the VIPI Defendants learned about my personal relationship with Ms. Abrams.3

Not having found any additional material against Ms. Abrams, the VIPI defendants began targeting me, in an effort to find a way to hurt her. They first posted the "hypocrisy" article calling me a "hypocrite" who "screw[s veterans] for profit and power," no part of which is true. As explained briefly above, I volunteer my time and go out of my way to actually assist veterans, and have done so for decades. It is no coincidence that this defamatory material was broadcast shortly after the VIPI defendants were paid by Louis Schneider to disseminate "smear campaigns" against my fiancé and immediately after they learned of the relationship between me and Ms. Abrams.4

Those unlawful activities, and others, led to the filing of this lawsuit, Willick v. Sanson, et al. Contrary to the assertions in the Motion, there have been many more than "five defamatory statements" made by the VIPI Defendants against me; the actual total is in the hundreds of communications to thousands of people, including a one-hour radio show on February 25, 2017, dedicated entirely to defaming me further. To this day, the "smear campaign" by VIPI against me continues.

While the timing and focus of the "hypocrisy" article evidences the VIPI Defendants' actual malice against me, the "sexually coercion" article and the VIPI Defendants' comments regarding that article leave no doubt that the purpose of the

<sup>3</sup> In a December 22, telephone conversation with David Schoen, Steve Sanson admitted that he became aware of the personal relationship between me and Ms. Abrams,

<sup>4</sup> Sanson later posted a "reward" of up to \$10,000 for anyone who would come up with additional defamatory material about me. There can be no question of intent to cause harm. A true and correct copy of the postings are attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

repeated publications was to try to find some way to injure me personally and professionally.

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Beginning on January 12, 2017, the VIPI Defendants posted an article with the title:

Attorney Marshall Willick and his pal convicted of sexually coercion of a minor, Richard Crane was found guilty of defaming a law student in a United States District Court Western District of Virginia signed by US District Judge Norman K, Moon.<sup>5</sup>

This was posted on the following social media sites on the dates and times indicated:

പ	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2		
8			Steve,Sanson1 Facebook Page
9	1/12/17	11:04 pm	
	1/12/17	11:42 pm	Twitter
	1/12/17	11:51 pm	Nevada Court Watchers Facebook Page
10	1/12/17	11:52 pm	Veterans In Politics Facebook Page
	1/12/17	11:57 pm	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget
11			Facebook Page
	1/12/17	11:58 pm	Nevada Veterans in Politics Facebook Page
12	1/12/17	11:59 pm	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook Page
	1/12/17	11:59 pm	Steve W. Sanson Facebook Page
13	1/13/17	12:00 am	Veterans in Politics International Facebook Page
14	1/13/17	12:06 am	Twitter
	1/13/17	12:07 am	Steve Sansong Facebook Page
_,	1/13/17	12:22 am	Family Court Support Group Facebook Page
15	1/13/17	12:32 am	Twitter
- A	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Steve Sanson: Facebook page
16	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Veterans In Politics Facebook page
د.	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Veterans In Politics International Facebook Page
17	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page
, o	1/14/17	3;33 pm	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page
1.8	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget
	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Nevada Veterans in Politics Facebook page
19	1/14/17	3:34 pm	Twitter
	1/14/17	4:07 pm	Twitter
20	1/16/17	10:00 am	Steve, Sansoni Facebook page
	1/16/17	10:00 am	Veterans in Politics Facebook page
21	1/16/17	10:00 am	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page
22	1/16/17	10:03 am	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page
	1/16/17	10:03 am	Veterans In Politics International Facebook Page

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This post also appeared with the title, "Attorney Marshall Willick and his pal convicted of sexually coercion of a minor Richard Crane was found guilty of defaming a law student in a United States District Court Western District of Virginia signed by US District Judge Norman K, Moon"

ì	1/16/17	10:03	am	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget
J.	1/16/17	10:03		Veterans In Politics Facebook page
2	1/18/17	11:00		Steve W. Sanson Facebook page
~	1/18/17	11:00		Eve on Nevada Politics Facebook page
3	1/18/17	11:00		Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget
3	1/18/17	11:00		Veterans in Politics Facebook page
4	1/18/17		am	Twitter
	1/18/17		am	Veterans In Politics Facebook page
5	1/20/17	1:20	am	Twitter
0	1/20/17	1:22	am	Steve.Sanson3 Facebook page
6	1/21/17	9:32	am	Twitter
	1/21/17	12:20		Veterans In Politics International Facebook Page
7	1/21/17	12:30	•	Steve,Sanson1 Facebook page
,	1/21/17	12:30	•	Veterans In Politics Facebook page
8	1/21/17	12:30	-	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page
V	1/21/17	12:30	•	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page
9	1/21/17	12:30		Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget
77	1/21/17	12:30		Veterans In Politics Facebook page
10				and discominated this defamator

It is likely that the VIPI Defendants posted and disseminated this defamatory material in other locations as well, of which I won't be aware until discovery is conducted. Given the VIPI Defendants' payment of money to Facebook and possibly other services to "boost" and spread defamatory material as far and wide as possible, it is likely that I will never know how many thousands of people were provided false accusations against me.

Contrary to the false assertion disseminated by the VIPI Defendants, I have never been "convicted of sexual coercion of a minor child." And while the VIPI Defendants, admitting that the post saying so is false and defamatory, seek to take cover behind the alleged posting of a "correction," (a) the VIPI Defendants did not delete the defamatory postings, many of which (detailed below) still remain visible, (b) the VIPI Defendants repeatedly disseminated the original, admittedly defamatory posting after the posting of the "correction," making it worthless, and (c) the correction itself is defamatory.

			the following are still visible in their original		
1	Of the post	Of the postings noted above, the following are still visible in their original			
	frame in all arranged a	nd uncorrected	l as of Friday, March 10, 2017:		
2	iorm, unchanged a	form, unchanged and uncorrected, as of Friday, March 10, 2017:			
3	1/12/17	11:42 pm	Twitter		
3	1/12/17	11:51 pm	Nevada Court Watchers Facebook Page		
4	1/12/17	11:57 pm	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget		
7			Facebook Page		
5	1/12/17	11:59 pm	Steve W. Sanson Facebook Page		
	1/13/17	12:06 am	Twitter Branks of Bogo		
6	1/13/17	12:22 am	Family Court Support Group Facebook Page		
	1/13/17	12:32 am	Twitter		
7	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Steve, Sanson: Facebook page		
"	1/14/17	3:33 pm	VeteransIn Politics Facebook page		
8	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Veterans In Politics International Facebook Page		
	1/14/17	3:33  pm	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page		
9	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget		
	1/14/17	3:33 pm	Nevada Veterans in Politics Facebook page		
10	1/14/17	3;33 pm	i		
	1/14/17	3:34 pm	Twitter		
11	1/14/17	4:07 pm	Twitter Steve.Sanson1 Facebook page		
	1/16/17	10:00 am	Veterans in Politics Facebook page		
12	1/16/17	10:00 am	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page		
	1/16/17	10:00 am	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page		
13	1/16/17	10:03 am 10:03 am	Veterans In Politics International Facebook Page		
	1/16/17	10:03 am	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget		
14	1/16/17 1/16/17	10:03 am	VeteransIn Politics Facebook page		
<del>ص</del> د ایم	1/18/17	11:00 am	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page		
15	1/18/17	11:00 am	Eve on Neyada Politics Facebook page		
16	1/18/17	11:00 am	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget		
1.0	1/18/17	11:00 am	Veterans in Politics Facebook page		
17	1.01.	11:00 am	Twitter		
17	1/18/17	11:00 am	VeteransIn Politics Facebook page		
18	3)	1;20 am	Twitter		
*^	1/20/17	1:22 am	Steve, Sanson3 Facebook page		
19	31 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	9:32 am	Twitter		
	1/21/17	12:20 pm	Veterans In Politics International Facebook Page		
20	I de la fara	12:30 pm	Steve Sanson Facebook page		
	1/21/17	12:30 pm	VeteransIn Politics Facebook page		
21	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page		
	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget		
22		12:30 pm	Veterans in Politics Facebook page		
	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Affersing in Longer Lacordow Page		
23		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	of these postings are attached hereto as Exhibit 3		
	True and	correct copies	on mese hoomige are merceren was		
24		the athere of u	hich I am unaware.		
	Agam, there may	De Officia of M	TARAMAN A Vienn amount of the con-		
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Despite there *currently* being at least 35 known postings containing the false and defamatory allegation that I was "convicted of sexually coercion of a minor," Steve Sanson falsely states in his "Supplemental Declaration of Steve Sanson In Support of Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss" that "[t]o my knowledge, there are no more copies of the original ambiguous statement available for public view through any venues that VIPI or I control or administer." In other words, Steve Sanson has recently and directly lied to this Court, and is fully aware of that lie.<sup>6</sup>

Of the (at least) 41 times that the VIPI Defendants posted and/or disseminated the false and defamatory allegation that I was "convicted of sexually coercion of a minor," the VIPI Defendants removed only six (6).7

Notably, the "correction" was posted on January 18, 2017. However, the original admittedly defamatory posting was re-posted and/or re-disseminated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Mr. Sanson's affidavit contains several deliberate falsehoods. For example, speaking of the Beery and Simes case, in which we eventually received a public apology and posted retraction for their defamation campaign conducted a couple years ago, Mr. Sanson now claims to have no connection to them. But he previously claimed that they were his "friends." See true and correct copy of January 13, 2017 Facebook posts by Steve Sanson on the Willick Law Group Facebook page, attached as Exhibit 4, wherein Steve Sanson says: "By the way don't forget my veteran friends protested at your office and you cowardly filed suit against them. Because you hide behind a keyboard. You are the biggest COWARD that has passed the bar." Mr. Sanson's personal animus and malice against me is also evident in these postings wherein, for example, Mr. Sanson says to me: "You should have came (sic) to Carson City, we where (sic) waiting for you."

<sup>7</sup> The only 6 that were deleted were:

<sup>1/12/1711:04</sup> pm Steve Sansoni Facebook page

<sup>1/12/17 11:52</sup> pm VeteransIn Politics Facebook page

<sup>1/12/17 11:58</sup> pm Nevada Veterans In Politics Facebook page

<sup>1/12/17 11:59</sup> pm Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page

<sup>1/13/17 12:00</sup> am Veterans In Politics International Facebook page

<sup>1/13/17 12:07</sup> am Steve.Sanson3 Facebook page

no less than sixteen (16) times between January 18, 2017 and the date of Mr. Sanson's false Declaration, as follows:

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3	1/18/17	11:00 am	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page
	1/18/17	11:00 am	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page
4	1/18/17	11:00 am	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget
	1/18/17	11:00 am	Veterans in Politics Facebook page
5	1/18/17	11:00 am	Twitter
	1/18/17	11:00 am	Veterans In Politics Facebook page
6	1/20/17	1:20 am	Twitter
	1/20/17	1:22 am	Steve.Sanson3 Facebook page
7	1/21/17	9:32 am	Twitter
_ / }	1/21/17	12:20 pm	Veterans In Politics International Facebook Page
8	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Steve.Sanson1 Facebook page
	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Veterans In Politics Facebook page
9	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Eye on Nevada Politics Facebook page
	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Steve W. Sanson Facebook page
10	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Veterans In Politics: Operation Never Forget
J. C.	1/21/17	12:30 pm	Veterans in Politics Facebook page

The "correction" is really no correction at all. It says: "CLARIFICATION: Attorney Marshall Willick's letters against opposing party found defamatory per se in 2008; Williek settled before trial on issue privilege." It says nothing to retract, correct, or withdraw the false allegation that "Attorney Marshall Willick and his pal convicted of sexually coercion of a minor."

In addition to being defamatory per se because they falsely allege that I was "convicted of sexually coercion of a minor," the postings / disseminations are defamatory because they allege I was "found guilty" (of defamation) which on its face constitutes an allegation of criminal conduct. Slander and libel are, in fact, crimes in the State of Virginia, and saying someone is "guilty" of them is an assertion that the person committed and was found guilty of that crime:

2016 Code of Virginia § 18.2-417. Slander and libel.

Any person who shall falsely utter and speak, or falsely write and publish, of and concerning any female of chaste character, any words derogatory of such female's character for virtue and chastity, or

Page 9 of 14

imputing to such female acts not virtuous and chaste, or who shall falsely utter and speak, or falsely write and publish, of and concerning another person, any words which from their usual construction and common acceptation are construed as insults and tend to violence and breach of the peace or shall use grossly insulting language to any female of good character or reputation, shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

The defendant shall be entitled to prove upon trial in mitigation of the punishment, the provocation which induced the libelous or slanderous words, or any other fact or circumstance tending to disprove malice, or lessen the criminality of the offense.

Slander and libel are likewise crimes in the State of Nevada:

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NRS 200.510 Definition; penalties; truth may be given in evidence; jury to determine law and fact.

1. A libel is a malicious defamation, expressed by printing, writing, signs, pictures or the like, tending to blacken the memory of the dead, or to impeach the honesty, integrity, virtue, or reputation, or to publish the natural defects of a living person or persons, or community of persons, or association of persons, and thereby to expose them to public hatred, contempt or ridicule.

Every person, whether the writer or publisher, convicted of the

offense is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

In all prosecutions for libel the truth may be given in evidence to the jury, and, if it shall appear to the jury that the matter charged as libelous is true and was published for good motive and for justifiable ends, the party shall be acquitted, and the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the fact.

I was not found "guilty" of the crimes of slander or defamation in Virginia, or Nevada, or anywhere else. In fact, the lawsuit at issue was a civil lawsuit that was settled by my insurance company<sup>8</sup> after the denial of a motion to dismiss without

<sup>8</sup> It was a minor skirmish in a long-running series of cases involving Scotlund Vaile, the most notorious international child kidnaper and deadbeat dad in Nevada, from whom I rescued the two kidnaped children and returned them to their mother in Norway in 2001, and who we have been pursuing for back child support, tort damages, and fees ever since. See Vaile v. District Court, 118 Nev. 262, 44 P.3d 506 (2002); Vaile v. Porsboll, 128 Nev. 27, 268 P. 3d 1272, 128 Nev. 27 (2012); Vaile v. Porsboll, No. 61415/62797, Order Affirming in Part, Dismissing in Part, Reversing in Part, and Remanding (Unpublished Disposition Dec. 29, 2015). Mr. Sanson has apparently taken up the cause of Mr. Vaile in an effort to defame me.

any admission of any liability of any kind -- there was no actual final adjudication at all.

Given that the VIPI Defendants posted the decision from the West Virginia case, they cannot claim to be ignorant of its contents. It states:

"Under Virginia law, it is defamatory per se to make false statements that among other things, (1) impute the commission of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude, for which the party, if the charge is true, may be indicted and punished; (2) impute that a person is unfit to perform the duties of an office or employment of profit, or want of integrity in the discharge of the duties of such an office or employment; or (3) prejudice a person in his or her profession or trade." Shupe v. Rose's 6 Stores, Inc., 192 S.E.2d 766, 767 (Va. 1972).

In Nevada, defamation per se is essentially identical:

To constitute slander per se, the alleged defamation must be oral and must fall into one of four categories: (1) that the plaintiff committed a crime; (2) that the plaintiff has contracted a loathsome disease; (3) that a woman is unchaste; or, (4) the allegation must be one which would tend to injure the plaintiff in his or her trade, business, profession or office,9

The VIPI Defendants cannot claim that they "didn't know" that the claims they made were defamatory per se, or that they just "accidentally" wrote the headlines they re-posted hundreds of times to falsely accuse me of having committed and having been found guilty of crimes. A comment was posted by one of their own followers (one Lee Pudemonhuchin Gilford) confirming that the message they broadcast was the false assertion that I had committed a crime against children:

And this is how the defamation lawsuits begin. Nothing you shared indicates that Willick did anything but employ a nasty bastard. You have intentionally indicated that he was convicted. <sup>10</sup> I offer you a couple of choices to correct this, because as someone claiming to represent veterans, I would appreciate it at least done in a legal way.

A) provide evidence that Willick was convicted.

<sup>9</sup> Nevada Ind. Broadcasting v. Allen, 99 Nev. 404, 409, 664 P.2d 337, 341 (1983), citing Branda v. Sanford, 97 Nev. 643, 637 P.2d 1223 (1981).

<sup>10</sup> Mr. Gilford is describing "actual malice."

B) change your caption 1 C) take this crap to your personal page. You stand before political figures in this state, indicating that you 2 represent veterans (me) here in Las Vegas. You therefore have an obligation to take our representation responsibly. Getting in to pissing 3 wars11 and getting sued for libel does nothing but discredit the image of veterans, that some of us pride ourselves in maintaining 4 Sansons' response was nothing short of extreme and outrageous by itself: 5 Look Lee you are a Marine correct.. Everything we put out is true.. If 6 you don't believe that don't engage in our page. We been doing this for over a decade.. Maybe you should do your own reserach [sic] before 7 you engage in another conversation with our group. Semper Fi12 The blatantly false representation that "[e]verything we put out is true" and 8 "[m]aybe you should do your own reserach [sic]," implies that there is proof 9 that I was convicted of sexual coercion of a minor child and implies that 10 there is proof that I was found "guilty" (implying criminal conduct) of 11 defamation under either the Virginia, Nevada, or both States' criminal statutes.13 12 Those statements are not true, they are not "substantially true," and they are 13 not even remotely true. None of it is "hyperbole" - they are outright lies. They are 14 not "opinions" - they are the blatant assertion of knowingly false "facts." They were 15 not made within any legal proceedings and are not privileged. They are not 16 "protected speech." They are defamation per se. 17 18 10 20 21 <sup>11</sup> Mr. Gilford is describing personal animus and the lack of any perceived "public interest." 22 12 See Exhibit 5. 13 See Lubin v. Kunin, 117 Nev. 107, 17 P.3d 422 (2001). "Everything we put out is true" is 23 even more extreme than the "It DID!" comment that was found to be actionably defamatory 24 in that case,

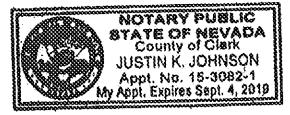
In short, I have been made the target of a months-long campaign of defamation having nothing to do with any issue of public concern, and having nothing to do with any legislation, testimony, or anything else with which I am remotely connected. The Defendants are a criminal syndicate engaged in extortion against my fiancé, and defamation against me.<sup>14</sup> It is inexcusable, unlawful, and should be both stopped and punished accordingly.

FURTHER, AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

MARSHALS, WILLICK

subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of March, 2017.

NOTARY PUBLIC



They have proudly proclaimed their actual purpose and methods in their own postings. Attached as Exhibit 6 are true and correct copies of several of the VIPI Defendants' postings wherein they admit that "when people need[] someone to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation."

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Affidavit of Marshal S. Willick in Support of Plaintiff's Opposition to Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs was filed electronically with the Eighth Judicial District Court in the above-entitled matter on Monday, March 13, 2017. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List, pursuant to NEFCR 9, as follows:

Anat Levy, Esq. Alex Ghoubadi, Esq. Attorneys for Defendants

An Employee of The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

Page 14 of 14

## EXHIBIT 1

## EXHIBIT 1

## EXHIBIT 1



### Order

Client

RIchard Crane

Order#

TC0951279015

How did we do?

If you rate this transcript 3 or below, this agent will not work on your

future orders

Steven:

Hi and good afternoon. Tell us about you.

Mr. Willick:

I am a local domestic relations attorney, family law attorney. I've been in practice here since 1982. I don't know what else you want to know.

Steven:

Well, I've done a lot of research on you, Mr. Willick, and I've known you throughout the years. A lot of the attorneys look at you as the Professor of Family Law. How do you feel about that because you wrote a lot of books and thesis and you've done a lot of instructional seminars and stuff like that?

Mr. Willick:

In every state there tends to be one guy who tends to write the instruction manuals and the text books and teach the courses. For here in Family Law that's pretty much my role.

Steven:

I just want to get right down to the chase. You and I have been opposite sides of the service connected disability benefits that are ... The Federal law is that you cannot use service-connected disability benefits for anything. Two sessions ago you were on satellite from the Grand Sawyer. You testified on the opposite side of the service connected disability benefits. This session you also testified on the opposite side.

I forgot where you were. You were in one of the rurals. I was in Carson City testifying. You were in one of the rurals. You had a couple folks that showed up in Carson City testifying committee for you. I have your letter that you gave. You wrote specifically when we were talking about Assembly Bill 140, which is the bill to stop Nevada Family Court judges for using service connected disability benefits for alimony. You said it would prevent courts from using the actual income of a small group of people as opposed to everyone else who gets divorced. I've got to ask you something before I continue Mr. Willick, have you ever served in the military?

Mr. Willick:

No, sir.

Steven:

Okay. In another part of this letter you wrote as testimony you said, "I have studied these issues and taught courses to other lawyers on this subject for over 20 years. Assembly Bill 140 is awful in every way, masquerading as a flag waving exercise." I've got to ask because there was another statement you write in your testimony. You were comparing a spouse with their PTSD to a military veteran with his. I've got to ask you something, Mr. Willick. Have you ever shot anybody?

Mr. Willick:

No.

Steven:

Have you ever taken a life?

Marshal's Radio Show - Edited

Page 2 of 11

Mr. Willick: Not that I know of.

Steven: Have you ever stuck a knife in somebody and killed them?

Mr. Willick: No.

Steven: Then how the fuck do you know what the fucking PTSD does to our veterans?

Mr. Willick: That's not it.

Steven: How do you know that? How could you compare a spouse who's domestically

back here in Garrison, in the states, to the man and woman on the God Damned combat field that is sticking knives in people, that is watching their brothers and sisters blow the fuck up, that seen hands fly. I was a Huey gunner. I fired a 50/60 caliber machine gun. I tell you what, when you put one of those striker rounds

in them, any part of their body is flying off.

Mr. Willick: Sure, Steven.

Steven: How, I just can't fathom, how are you going to compare somebody that's here

to somebody that's a thousand miles away fighting for this country's freedom?

Mr. Willick: Not a matter of comparison. It's a matter of a [crosstalk 00:04:29]

Steven: You compared it. I read it.

Mr. Willick: To answer the question, the question from a family law perspective is the

question of equal protection of the law and equal treatment under law because that's the underlying directive of what's going on here. It's not a matter of comparing the relative worth of people. We don't do value judgments. The problem, the point, is the equal protection of everybody before the court. There's a handful of places where military service of one sort or another and military involvement of one sort of or another, impacts the family law system. Jurisdictionally, child custody, visitation and support, property division, alimony, child support, even procedural matters. They are each not intended to compare a military member with the non-military member. The point is to prevent military service, or former military service, from being an impediment to the equal protection of the laws. That doesn't mean superior rights. It means equal

rights. That's the whole point.

Speaker 3: I guess to follow up, okay. Where I'm getting confused on this issue then is, from

a legal aspect, if it's Federal law that you can't use service-connected disability for alimony, then why should the state not follow Federal law, because the last

time I checked, Federal law trumped state law. Am I reading that wrong?

Mr. Willick: To some degree. You're talking about the concept of Federal preemption.

Speaker 3:

Right.

Mr. Willick:

The statute in question, Section 5301, has as its second line, except as otherwise provided by laws. It's right built into the statute. The United States Supreme Court decided a long time ago that VA disability benefits, it's also built into multiple other pieces of the Federal law, are not truly, solely for the veteran but for the veteran's family, as well. That's why, for instance, the amount that somebody on such a disability program gets, goes up if they have children or dependent spouses or various other people. The reason is that the benefit package itself, although it's grossly inadequate for the support of those people, is intended to reflect the support of those people.

That's not the only place, you know, that the Federal law intersects with the family law system. For instance, even on that benefit, there's a specific piece of the Social Security Act that allows for garnishment of unpaid child support or alimony from that same benefit stream, to the degree that it remains unpaid despite a court order. There's an intersection between the laws. It's not a matter of a total exemption and it was never intended to be.

Speaker 3:

Okay. I guess where, obviously, Steve had already talked about your background. Obviously, you're extremely knowledgeable in the law. Otherwise, you wouldn't be in the position you're in. Here's the issue that I have, not just with this particular issue, but just in general with lawyers in general and the law. Specifically is because I understand we're a land of laws. We are also a land of people. I think it's just interesting. I think it's very, as somebody who hasn't served in the military, I just find some of this stuff very hypocritical to me personally that it's interesting, like reading Matthew's book and some of the stuff that Steve [Stanson 00:08:11] and I have talked about when, you know, when Matthew comes back and he's talking about all these people cheering him at McCarran Airport. He's treated the way he should have been treated, like a hero. Then now, all of a sudden, we're going to mince words on the law. For me personally, I think that somebody who is willing to sacrifice their life for this nation, they should have special privilege. I don't think the Fourteenth Amendment should apply to them.

Mr. Willick:

Well, obviously, you're entitled to your own opinion.

Speaker 3:

Right.

Mr. Willick:

You're just not entitled to your own facts. The fact is that the concept, the entire ... Anybody that puts on the uniform, that goes off to war, there's a reason they're doing it. They're not doing it for a square cloth. They're doing it for the concepts that underlie the American flag. Those concepts, right there at the top of it, is the equal protection of the laws. I mean no disrespect to anybody.

Speaker 3:

Right.

Mr. Willick:

You are simply not entitled to greater protection of the legal system than any other person under law. That's the concept, Black or White, male or female, mom or dad, veteran or non-veteran. The idea is that once you walk into that courtroom, you have the same rights as everybody else. No one has special privilege. Nobody has special exemption. You are entitled to equality. That's why when we designed ... I'm one of the people that helped design the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody Act. The concept was not to give military members who are going off on deployment to various other places, superior rights relating to their children.

The idea was to make sure that their military service didn't prevent them from having equal rights to be able to parent their children, to have contact with their children, to be the parents that they intended to be regardless of putting on the uniform. It wasn't intended to give them a leg up. It was intended to make sure that the playing field is level. We developed a whole bunch of safe guards to make sure that they could appear remotely, that they could get expedited hearings, that they could appear electronically. I mean, there's a lot of things in it, but the concept was not to say you're more important than your wife or she's more important than you. The idea was to make sure that the best interest of the child was served by making sure the parents were treated equally.

Steven:

Mr. Willick, somebody that's never served in the military, how could you sit there and say that? You have no fucking idea. None. You have no fucking idea what we go through. Absolutely none. How could you sit there and say that? Because of us, you get to sit there and say that. Because of what we did. Because of what we sacrificed, you get to sit there and say that. When you put on that uniform, you put a gun in your hand and you put a bullet in somebody, then you can come back and say that. Until then, how could you say that?

Mr. Willick:

Because we are in ...

Steven:

You have no idea. You've been in the courtroom. You've been making your money in the courtroom.

Mr. Willick:

Because we are a nation of laws, not men.

Steven:

Because of men and women like us, gave you the opportunity not to go into the military, gave you the opportunity to go to school, to get your education, to make 'x' amount of dollars a year. What you make? A little over, probably \$2-300 thousand a year. Probably even more. You own your own law firm, so I'm sure you make a lot of money because you've got employees, and you've got lawyers that probably make about a hundred and something thousand dollars working for you. You got to make way more than them. How could you sit there and say that?

Mr. Willick:

Because this country was founded on this purpose. That's the reason you go into the military.

Marshal's Radio Show - Edited

Page 5 of 11

Steven:

Could you go to a rape victim and tell her, I know how you feel?

Mr. Willick:

It's not a matter of my knowledge of how you feel. The notion is equal protection under law. If you go to the United States Supreme Court, that building's been there for what, a 150 years. You look up at the top of it, as you're walking in the main front door, it says in large letters ...

Steven:

I know what it says. If it wasn't for men and women that defend this country, it wouldn't even be up there to begin with. Let me ask you something. If I lose my arm, okay, something that you can see, because apparently you can't see PTSD. If I lose my arm, and I'm getting disability because of my lost arm. Okay? My spouse should get half of my disability benefit because I lost my arm?

Mr. Willick:

No, and that's never been the law. The case that you were eluding to earlier is a case called Brownell. The facts are pretty stark and pretty illustrative. We had a couple of people with almost no income and virtually no ability to get by. He was a military vet with PTSD who was getting, I think the total was something like 2500 bucks a month in combined benefits from a couple of different programs. She was a completely disabled spouse who had as her entire income 200 bucks in food stamps. That's it. When they go into a courtroom, the function of the court is to treat them equally under law. It doesn't make any difference whether one of them was a trust fund baby or one of them was getting military benefits or one of them had a separate property estate of some sort or mommy or daddy was giving them the money. It doesn't make any difference why they have separate property assets. It's not a matter of saying that they don't have separate property assets. That income stream is separate.

The court's obligation is to make sure everybody stays alive and is equally treated under law. What the court did in that case is not say I'm going to pretend that this benefit stream doesn't exist, but I'm going to treat that one as if it does. The court took cognizance of the actual facts of the actual people in front of him. There they tried to do equity between them. Now that wasn't a Nevada case. It's a, I think, New Hampshire. The same principle applies here as applies there.

Speaker 3:

I think here's the thing. This is my last question on this. It's obviously a very emotional issue for everybody. What Steve is ... I mean, here's where and I obviously would not be a part of this organization if I wasn't very passionate about veterans' issues. It's hard for me because Steve Stanson is like one of my best friends. Here's my issue with this. It's what you said. You were talking about the law and you're very articulate and you understand the law very well. I think that more to the issue is that we were trying, this organization was trying to get a bill passed to amend current state law. This organization was trying to do it the right way. We were trying to, because we obviously don't agree with current law, so we were trying to amend it. I think where the passion comes from, understandably enough from Steve, is that why would you go against it?

Mr. Willick:

The original provisions of this act would have done violence to the concept of equal protection under law, which is why I was there. As you know, as I told you, and as anybody that's done a research knows, I represent men and women, fathers and mothers, vets and non-vets. It depends on who hires me. I'm on both sides of all of these cases. It's not a matter of a personal matter. It's a matter of my knowledge of what the legal system is and what the impact of the statute would have been. It would have done violence to the concept of equal protection under law. That was the reason for the opposition. It has been amended so that basically that has been taken out of it. It's still somewhat problematic in its phrasing but I wasn't involved.

I read the article that was in the last Nevada Lawyer by the woman who negotiated the final version of the language. I understand what she is saying. We just have to hope now that the judges interpret the language correctly. No, the people that were trying to pass the original version of this act were trying to do something which just isn't right under the concept of equal protection of law. That was the reason for the opposition and the amendments to try to make it something which fits within the Constitutional realm of family law, which is to treat everybody equally.

Speaker 3:

I'm just going to say I respect you for coming on the show. I respectfully disagree. Honestly, this is one of the issues that I have with attorneys just in general, is that they just seem very callous. In general. There's no. I guess you have to be at some level. You just read and interpret law. I mean, I just think your position is pretty callous. [crosstalk 00:16:54] I'm entitled to my opinion. [crosstalk 00:16:57] ... what your opinion.

Mr. Willick:

You don't want lawyers to only represent one side. If your shopping for a lawyer, be very careful of looking at somebody who says, oh yeah, we value men's rights or veteran's rights, or only women or whatever the deal is. Those are marketing ploys. What you want in a lawyer, and when you talk about callous, you're looking for somebody dispassionate. You're looking for somebody who knows and knows what to do. I tell you, the best lawyers are the ones that represent both sides of most kinds of cases because you only learn what the arguments really are and how to apply them if you appear on both sides of most issues. There's an old saying that he is no lawyer who cannot take both sides. That's not a matter of being callous. That's a matter of doing your job. As somebody who's been in the military, I'm sure you understand that the job ...

Speaker 3:

I've never been in the military.

Mr. Willick:

Oh, I'm sorry.

Speaker 3:

No, don't. That's one thing I'm very passionate about. I'm a part of this organization because I care very much about veterans. I make it very clear, I've

never served. It was one of my biggest regrets in life. That's why I am a part of this organization. I am so passionate about this.

Mr. Willick:

Sorry about that. I didn't know. The point is that you're looking for somebody who can do the job. There's a job to do. Not somebody who empathizes or feels for you or has a ... You're not looking for commiseration. You're looking for representation. To do that, you want somebody who's as good as they can be at what they do. He is no good lawyer who gets sucked in the emotional vortex of his client's situation. Part of the reason you hire counsel is to find somebody with enough emotional distance that they can accurately perceive the merits of the situation so they don't go off on an emotional bent because that won't help you. You want somebody who understands enough to be able to do the job for which you hired him. That's why people need lawyers.

Speaker 4: I got a question for you.

Mr. Willick: Sure.

Speaker 4: I don't really know your past experience. I did a little due diligence before I came up here. Being a veteran, I saw a lot of negative information on the web, which I'm not going to entertain because I want to ask you person to person,

what drives you to be an expert in this field?

Mr. Willick: Sure.

Speaker 4: [crosstalk 00:19:05] What drives you to kind of help out veterans or even more, what do you have to say to opponents that say you're just shitting on veterans,

you're taking advantage of veterans, and like you said ...?

Mr. Willick: Well, I'll tell them that they're misperceiving. My dad's a disabled vet. I employ

two of them. One just retired. One from Vietnam; one from Iraq. I have a long-standing history of service to the veteran community, both formally and informally. One on one. For instance, there's a group that I'm in called Operation Standby. I get questions from all over the world, military bases all over the world. There's some guy stationed at some base out in Seoul or wherever, who has a family law problem in Nevada and needs to know somebody he can call. It's all pro bono. We answer their questions for free in

order to give them access to the legal system. Now, there's no personal agenda.

People that have their own agendas that are trying to do things to the law perceive anybody with a different opinion as the enemy. I'm not the enemy. I am somebody who knows what the system is and I tell the truth. Some people don't want to hear that truth. If it disagrees with their pre-conceptions, sometimes they get upset about it. As to why I do this, it started with a pro bono case. That means a case that you do without being paid ... that I took in 1985. I took it through the Nevada Supreme Court. That took two years and I got a really bad decision. Frankly, it's taken 27 years to finally fix it. We just did it

Marshal's Radio Show - Edited

Page 8 of 11

in the last legislative session through a different enactment, 362. It was a matter of, when you talk about a passion, I was trying to make it right for those people that were involved. I think we finally did.

My work in that case led to the chair of the American Bar Association Family Law Section asking me to write a book, because he thought there needed to be one to instruct attorneys representing military members and spouses of military members, how all this stuff works, because nobody knew. They asked me to write a book. I did. It came out in 1998. That led to teaching courses. That led to other things.

Speaker 3:

It sort of built on its own.

Speaker 4:

Right. That's what I saw on the Internet, a lot of that.

Mr. Willick:

Basically, I was asked to and I did as a service to the military community and to the people on both sides of the cases.

Speaker 4:

You understand that veterans like Steve, they're very emotional, very passionate about this subject because it resonates so strongly with them.

Mr. Willick:

Sure.

Speaker 3:

We're out of time.

Speaker 4:

I understand you being separate from emotional and the business but the connection there is a little bit more resilient than ...

Mr. Willick:

That's fine and people are entitled to their emotions just like they're entitled to their opinions. This is not an emotional question. This is an intellectual question. This is a legal question. The last thing you want when you're asking somebody for a legal opinion is somebody who comes out of emotion, regardless of [crosstalk 00:21:55]

Speaker 4:

... or acts like they understand other emotions on the other side.

Mr. Willick:

Sure. You want somebody to actually reflect the reality of their situation. For me, it's what the law is.

Steven:

Well, now this is the law. The bill passed. Right?

Mr. Willick:

AB140 in its final form is the law of the State of Nevada. It does do actually not much because the existing decisional law already reflected what Section 5301 reflects, that you can't directly levy, attach, garnish, etc..

Steven:

Before I let you go, Marshall Willett, thank you for coming on the program.

Mr. Willick:

Your welcome. Thank you for inviting me.

Steven:

One thing I don't understand is how the Federal government can't even tax these dollars but a county judge in family court can take it for alimony. That's just ...

Mr. Willick:

I'll answer the question if you want to know.

Steven:

Real quickly.

Mr. Willick:

Sure. There's a lot of Federal and non-Federal benefits that are non-taxable. Lots of disability streams are non-taxable, but that doesn't mean that they don't exist. A District Court judge trying to say, support a child, is entitled to take knowledge of the facts as they actually exist. The fact that they're not being taxed is not relevant to the guestion of whether they exist.

Steven:

Like I testified in the last several times on this bill for the past four years now, if you're going to touch my service connected disability payments, then you fucking take the pain and suffering that goes along with those dollars. If you can't take the pain and suffering that goes along with those dollars, don't fucking touch my money. That's how I'll end it.

Mr. Willick:

That is the emotional reaction of everybody that has a separate property income stream.

Steven:

Exactly. Until you wear that uniform and you go to combat, then you come back and you talk to me about your experience. I'll tell you what. You'll be over with me saying, Goddamn right, Steve. Where was I lost in this legal bullshit all these years? I say, see Marshall. See what happens. When you go to combat, it's a whole fucking different story than when you're never been there before. You have no idea. None. I'll tell you this from experience. You have no idea what we go through. None at all.

Mr. Willick:

That's true.

Steven:

Because if you did, you wouldn't be saying what you're saying right now. I guarantee you that.

Mr. Willick:

Steven. I don't know what a lot of people go through.

Steven:

You wouldn't be saying what you're saying right now if you did. I'm just saying. You wouldn't be saying what you're saying right now.

Mr. Willick:

I sure hope that I would be and I'm sure that anybody who has taken the oath

that I have,

Steven:

You'd commit suicide if you say that. You'd be committing suicide. Well, thank you Marshall Willick for coming to the program. That's Marshall Willick, the owner of Willick Law. Don't go away folks. We're going to have Randall Powell. He's going to talk about how he got screwed over.

How did we do?



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## EXHIBIT 2



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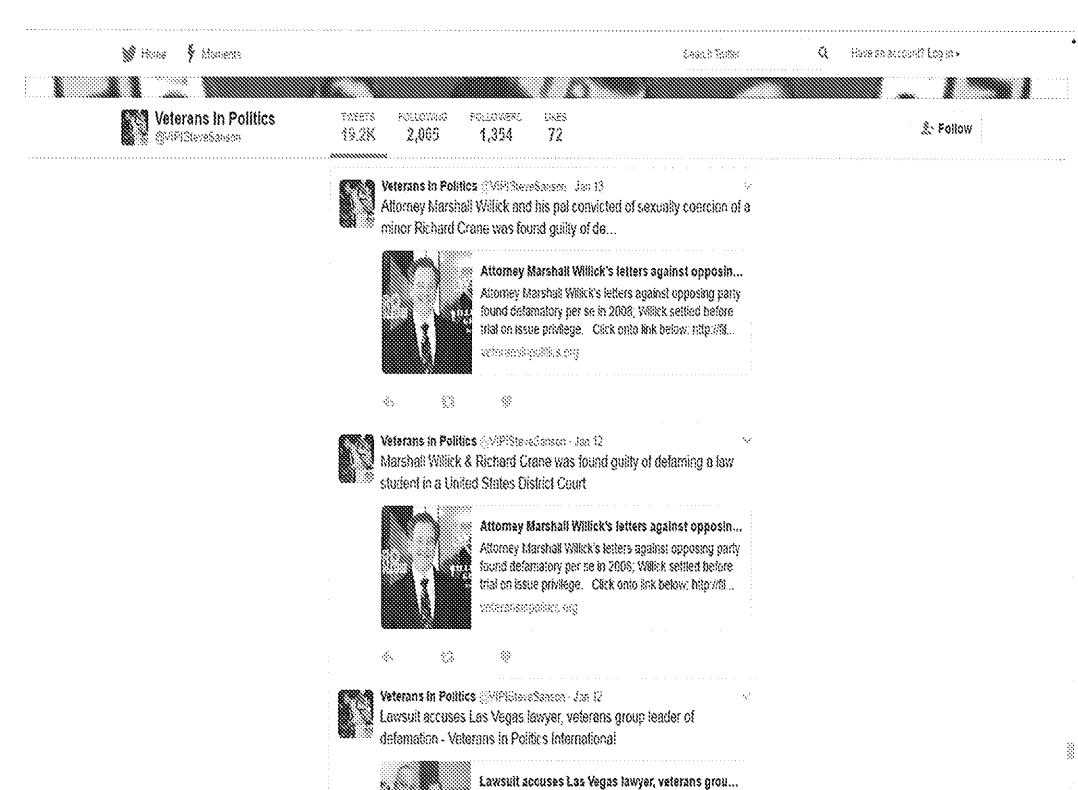
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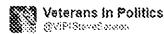
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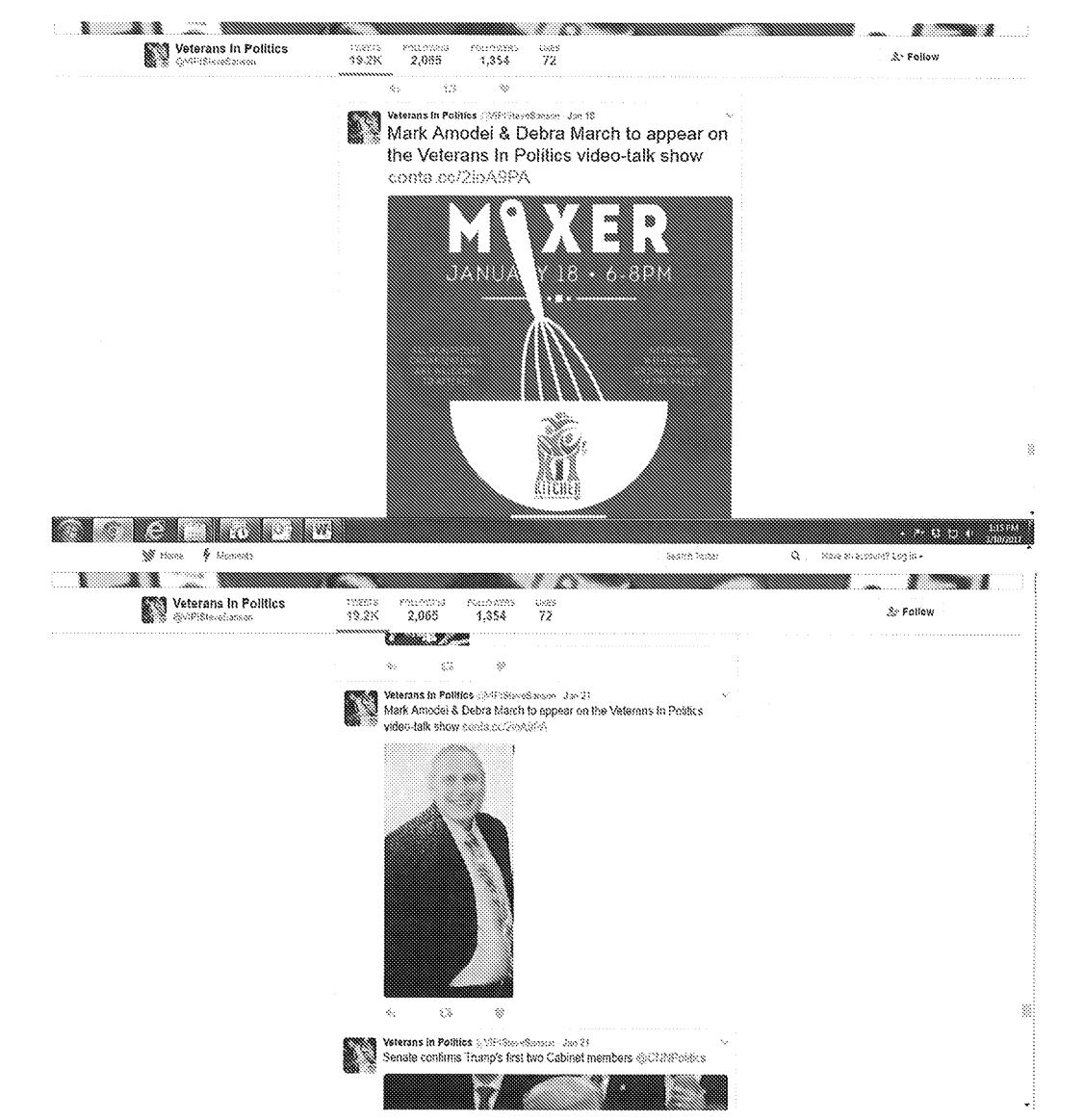
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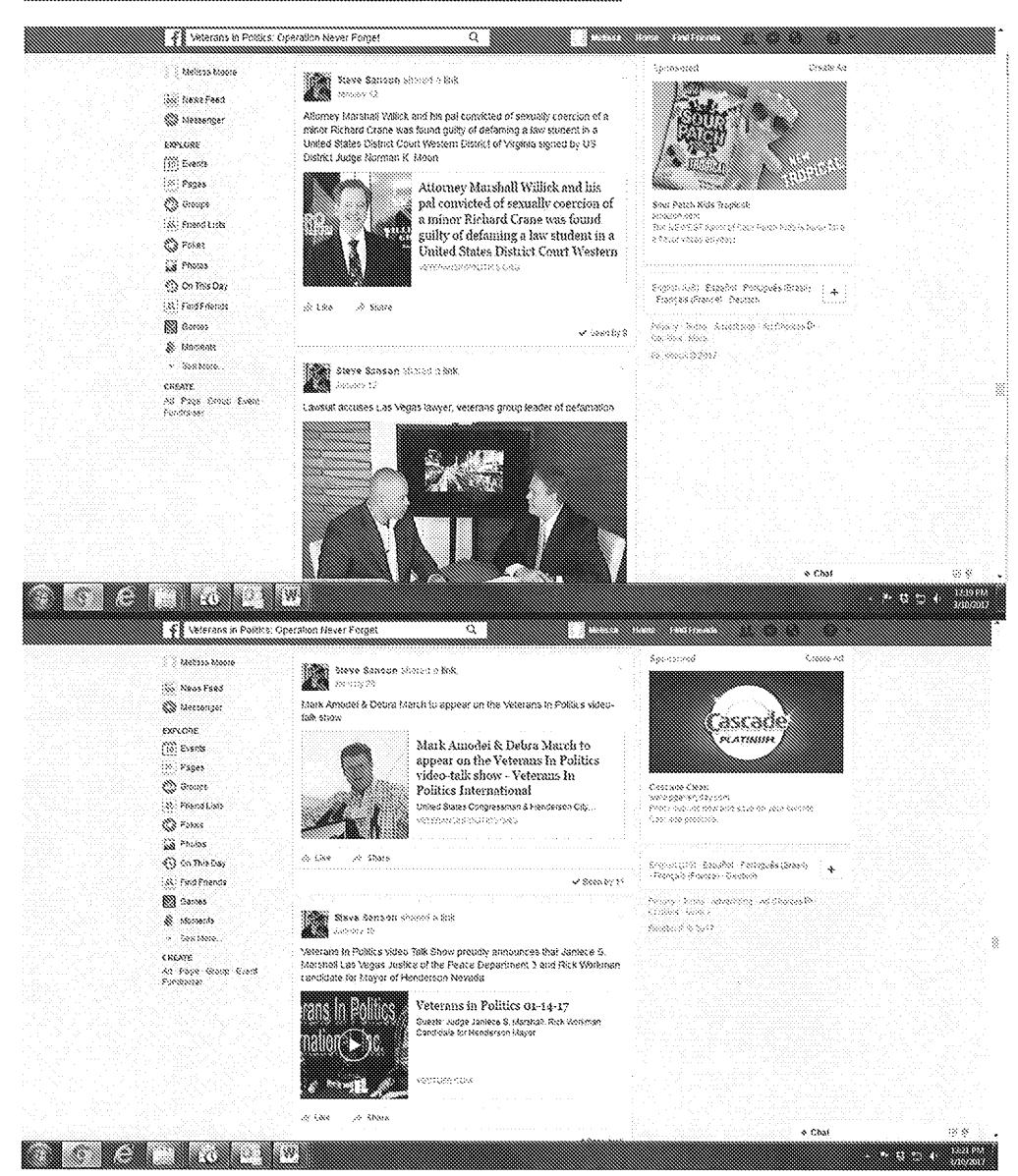
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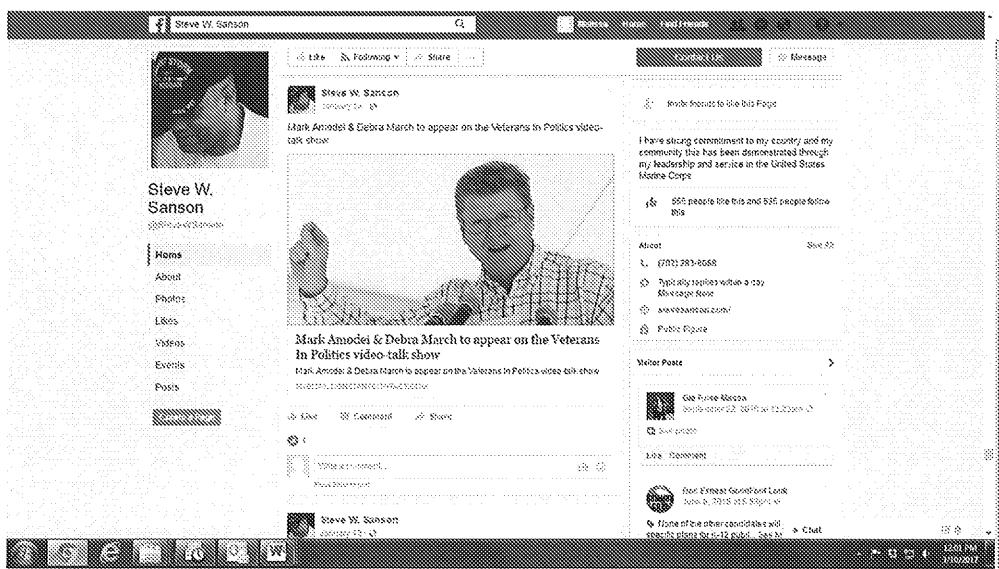


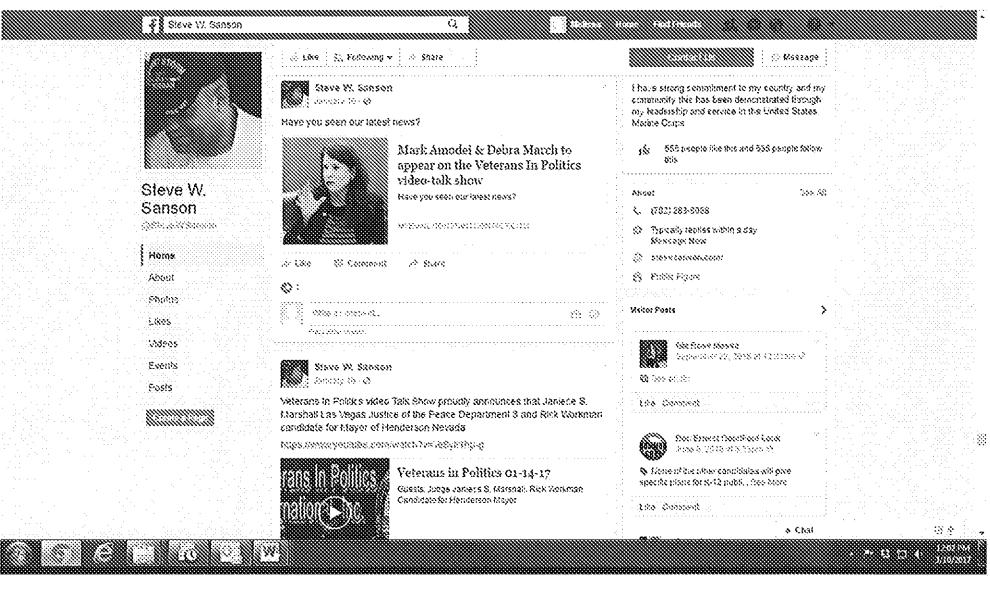
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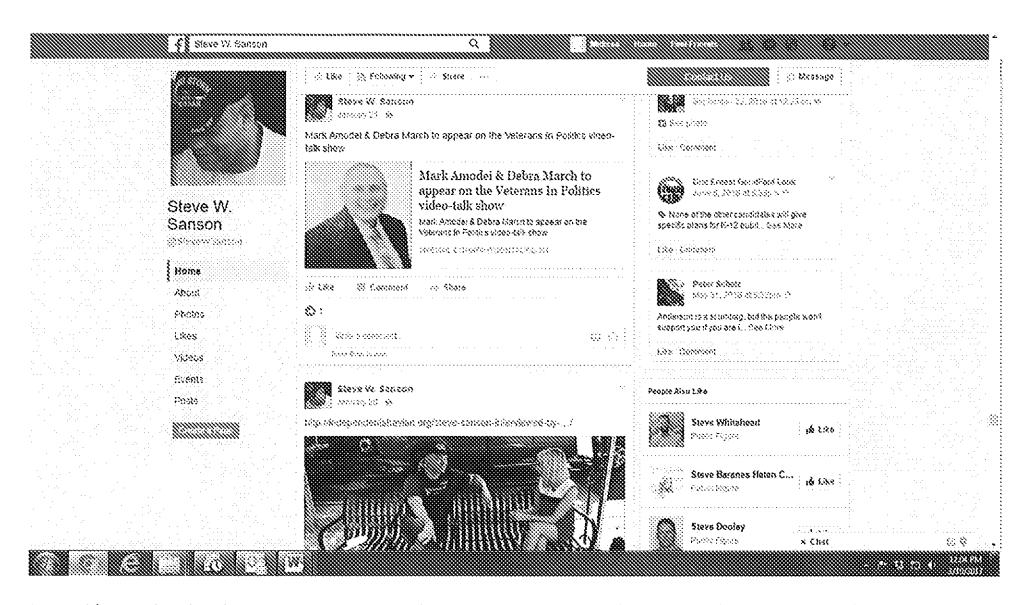
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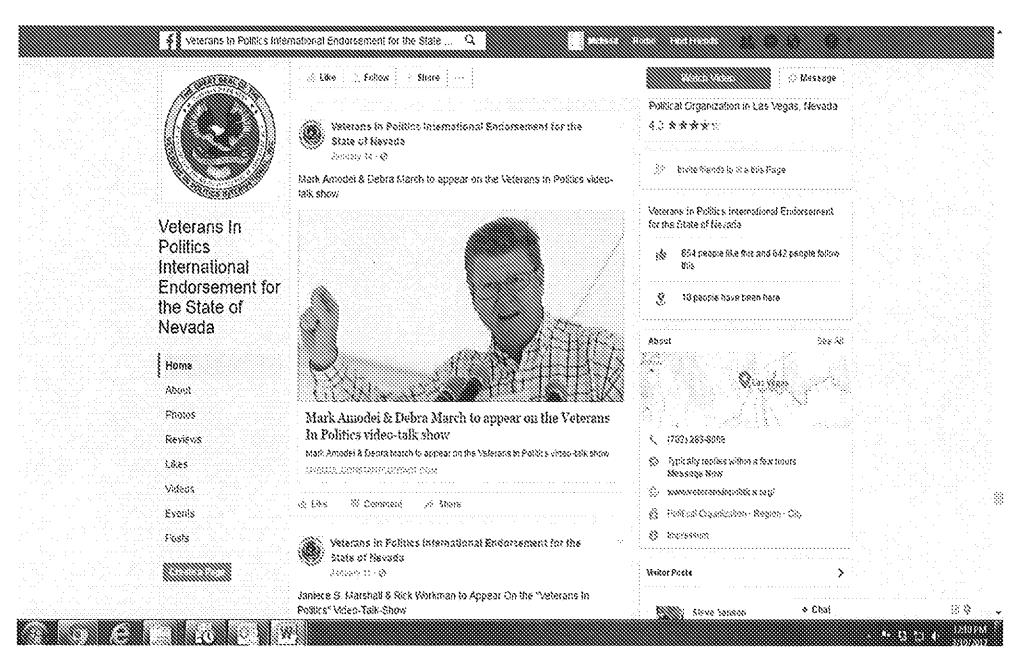


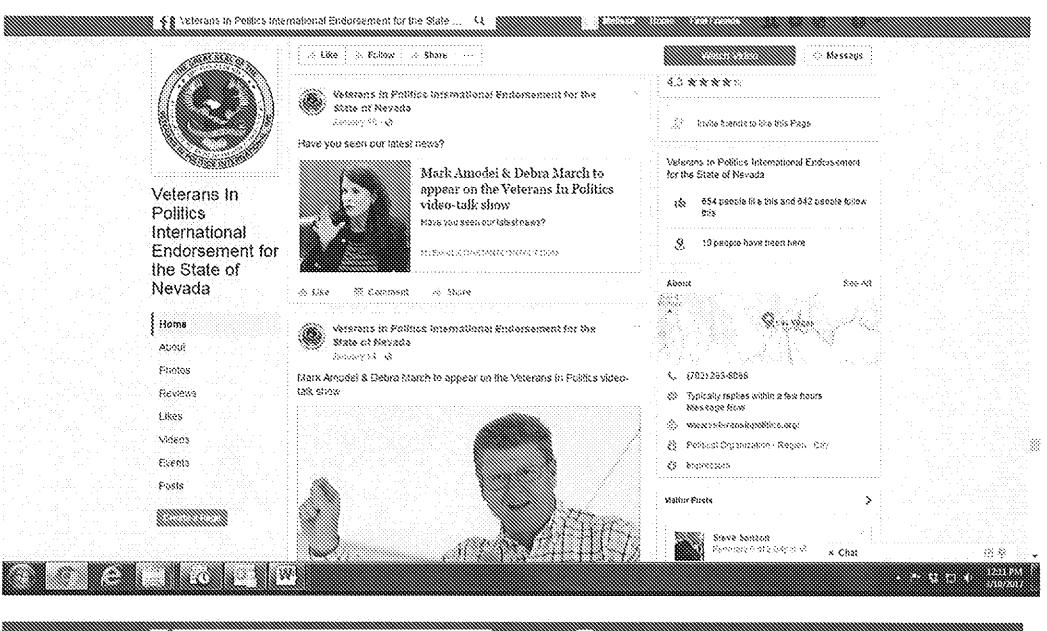


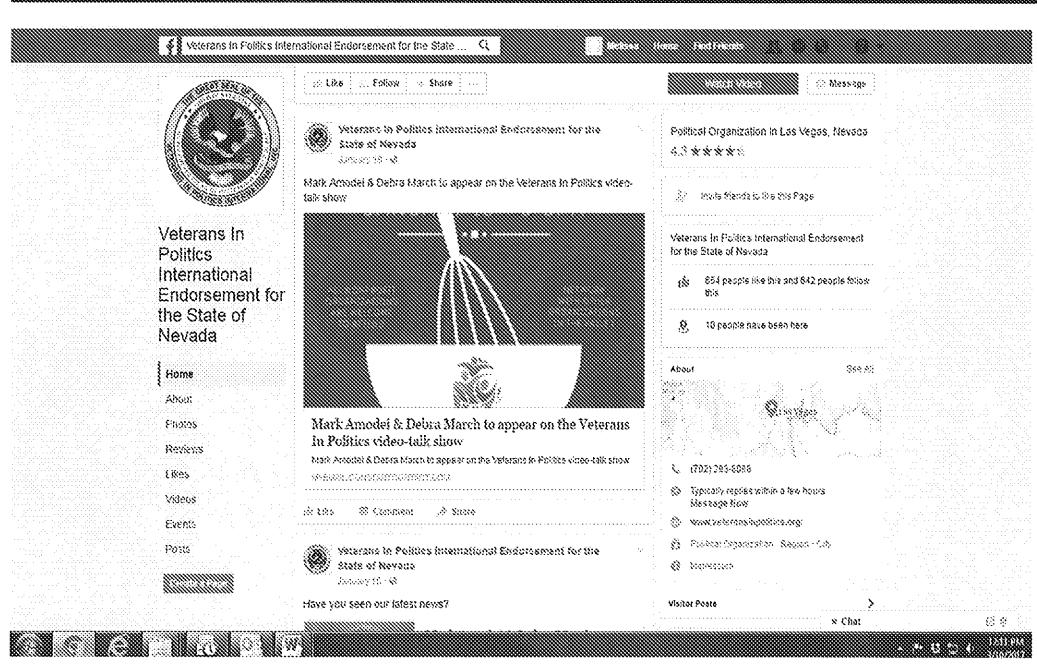


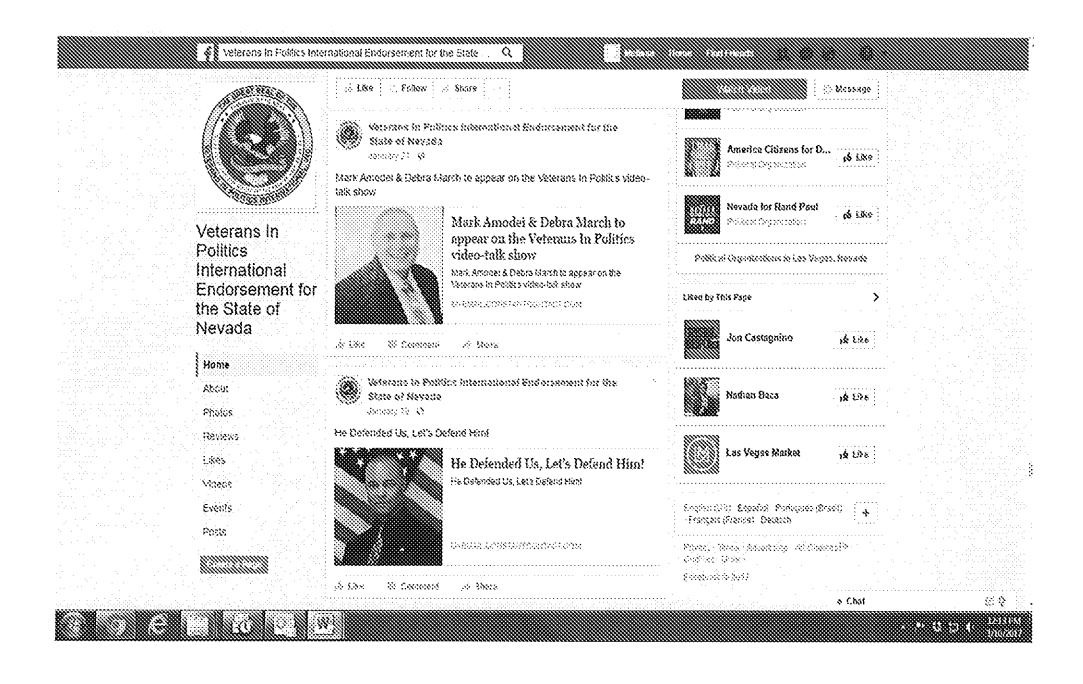


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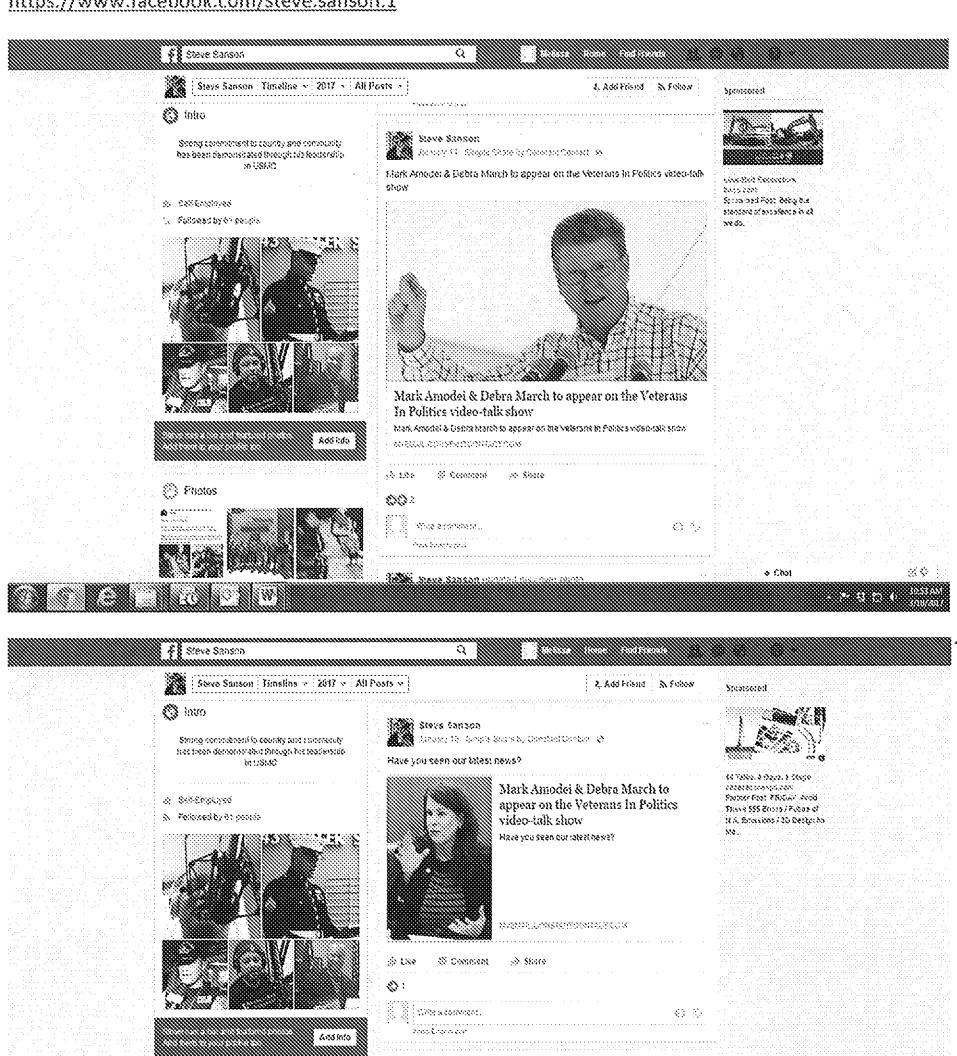






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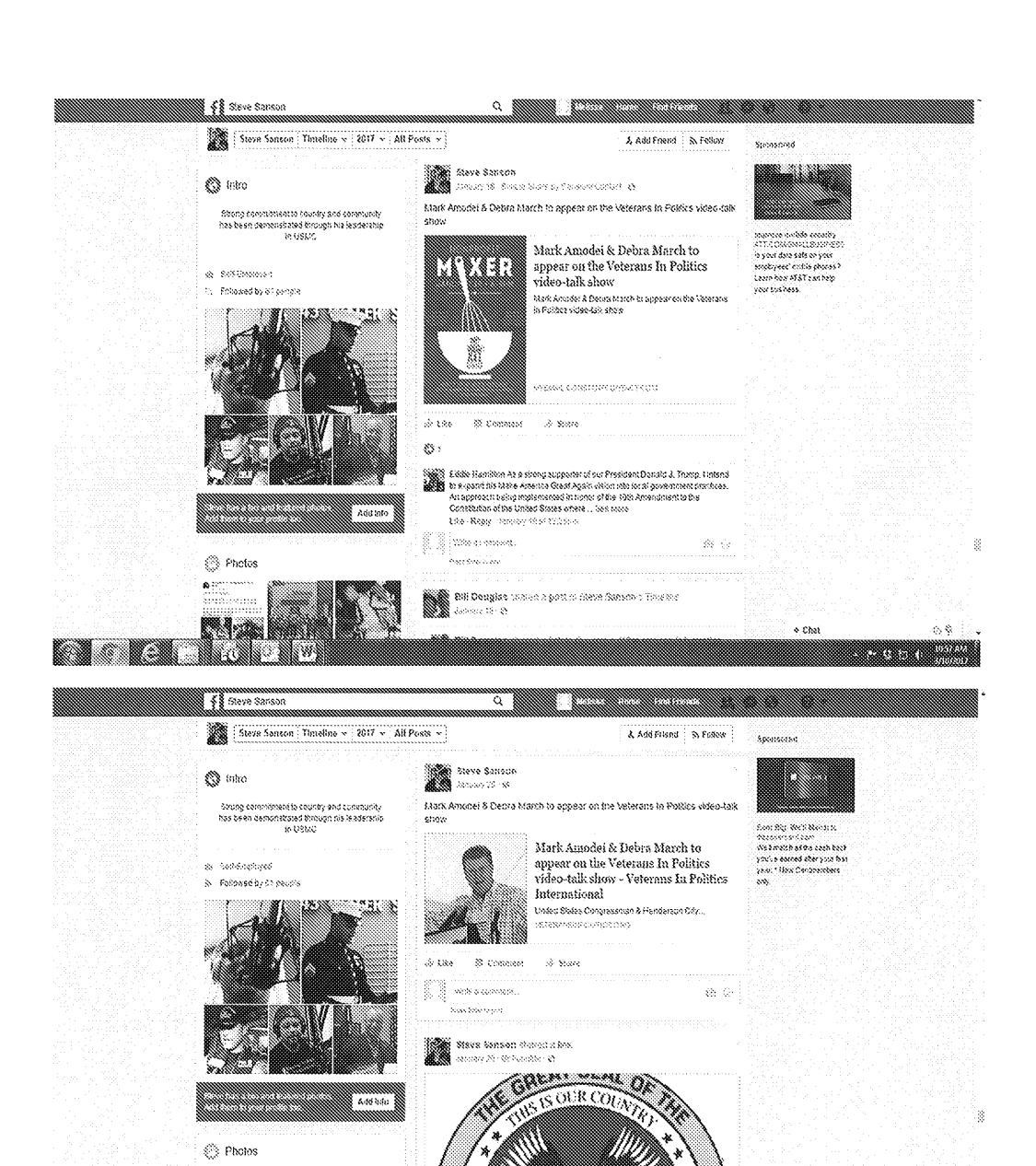
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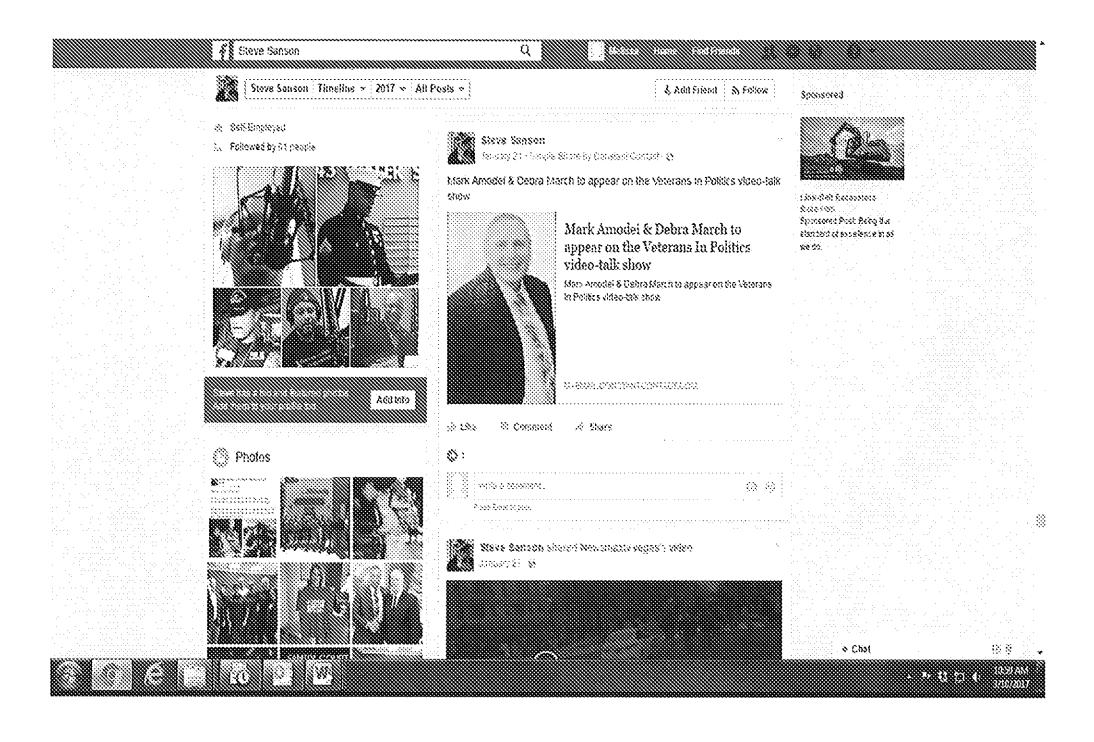
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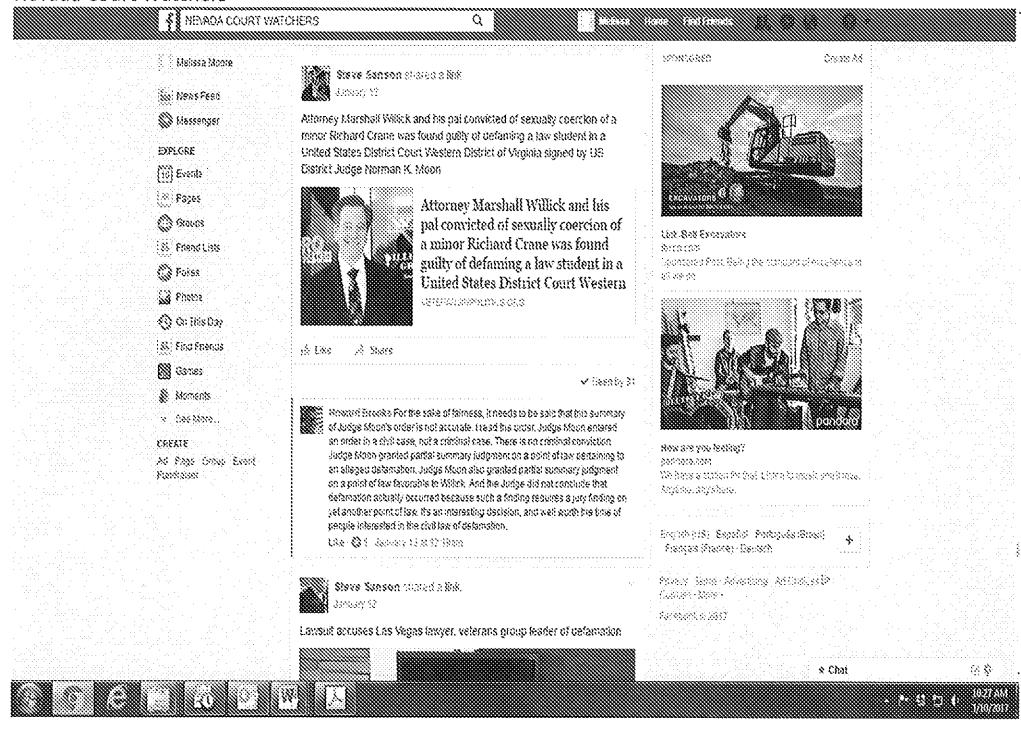


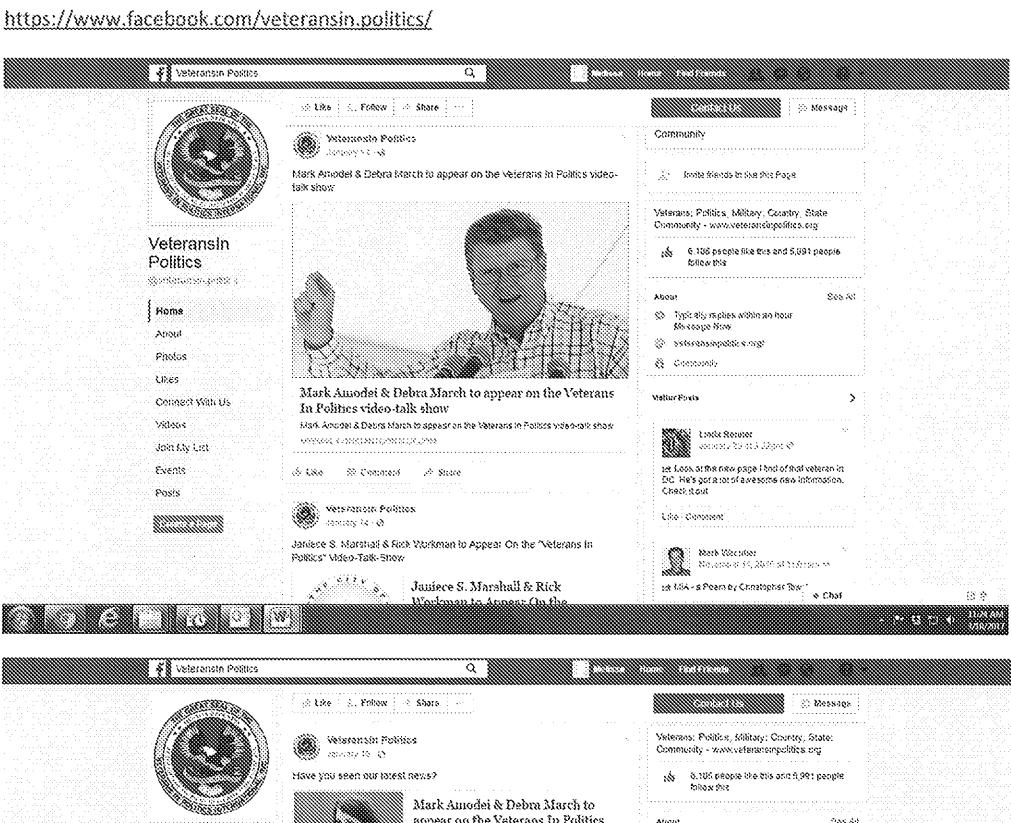
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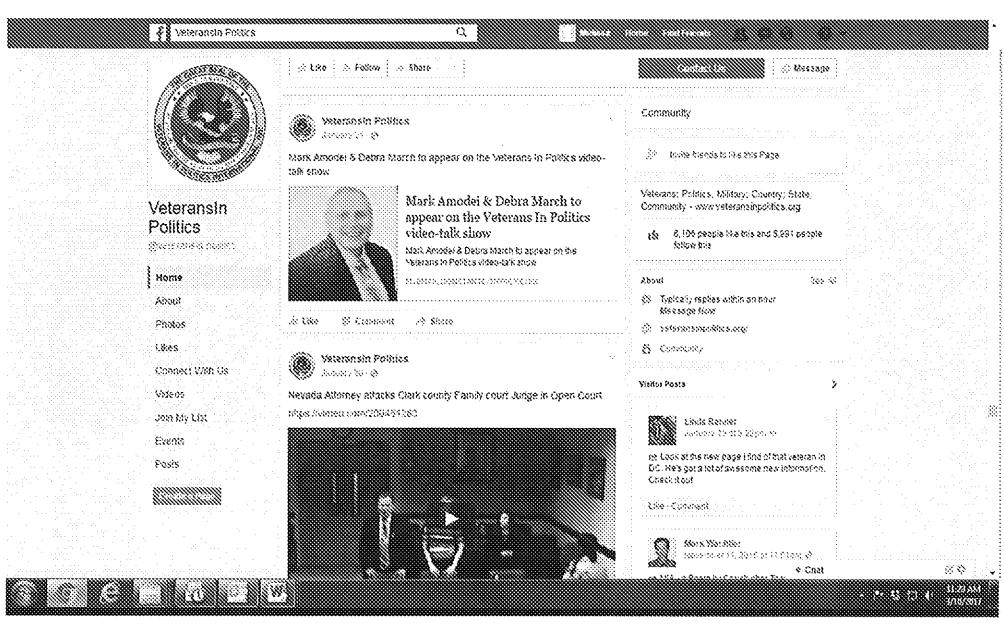
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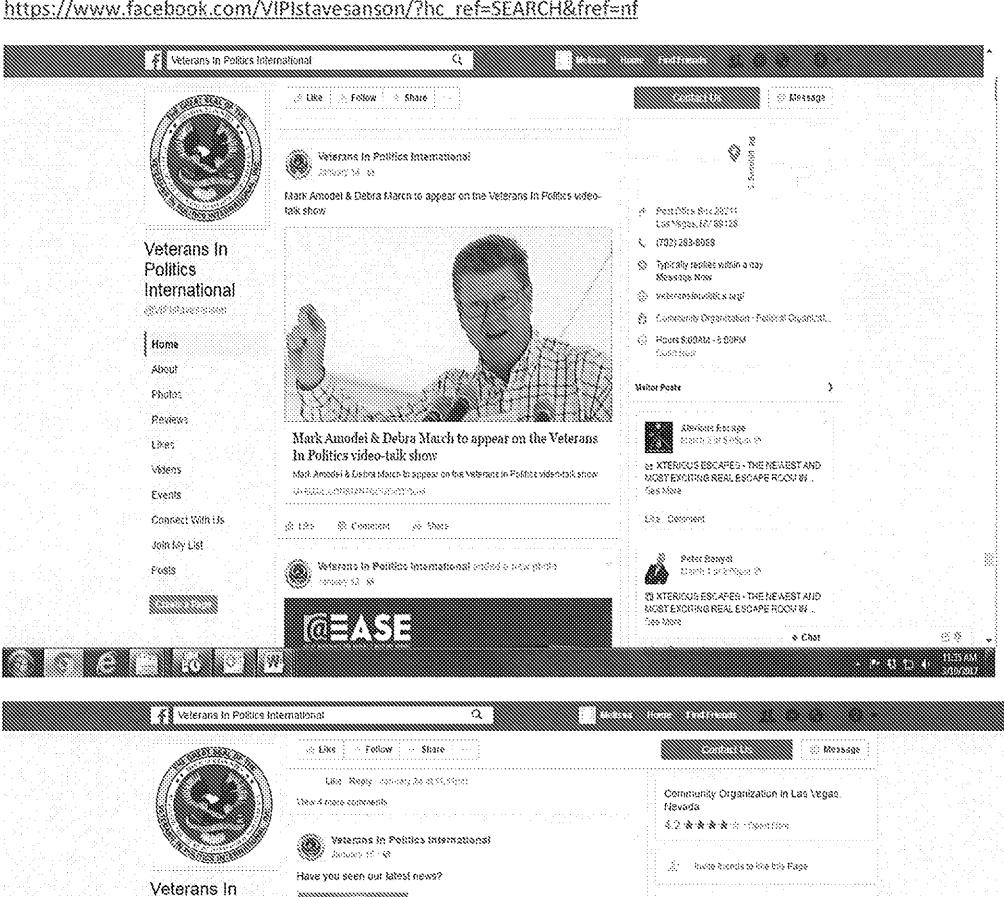


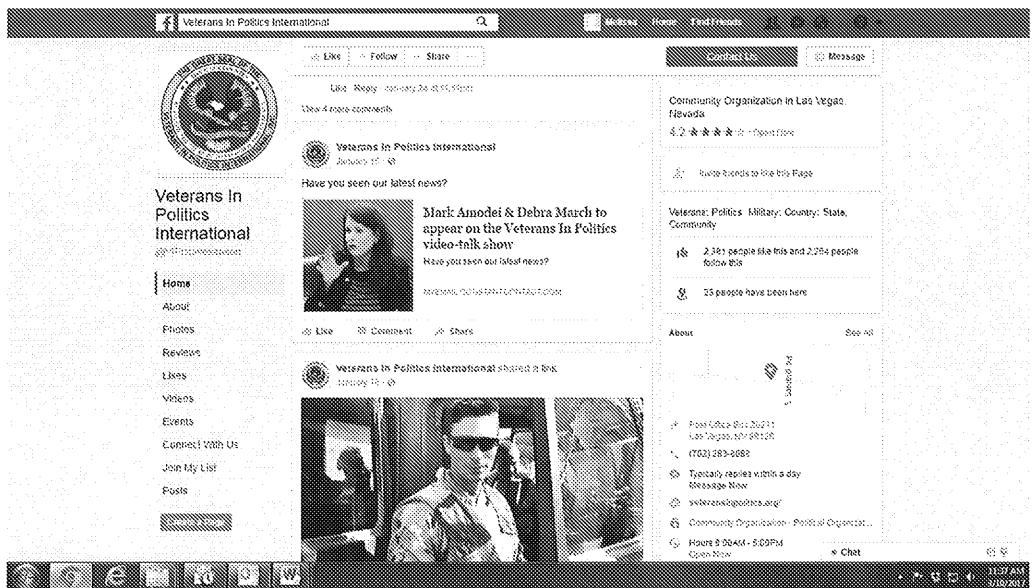






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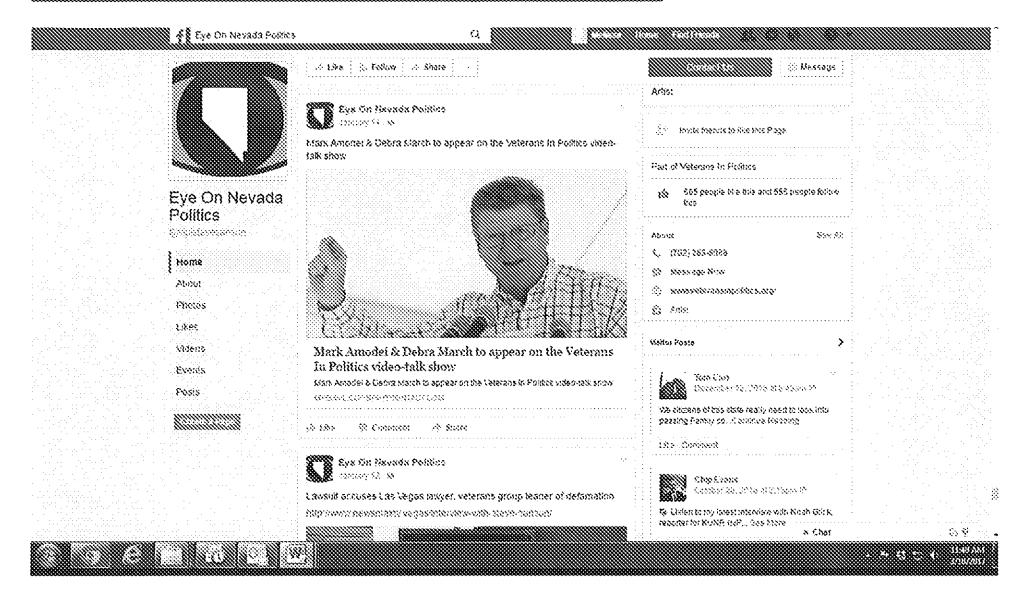


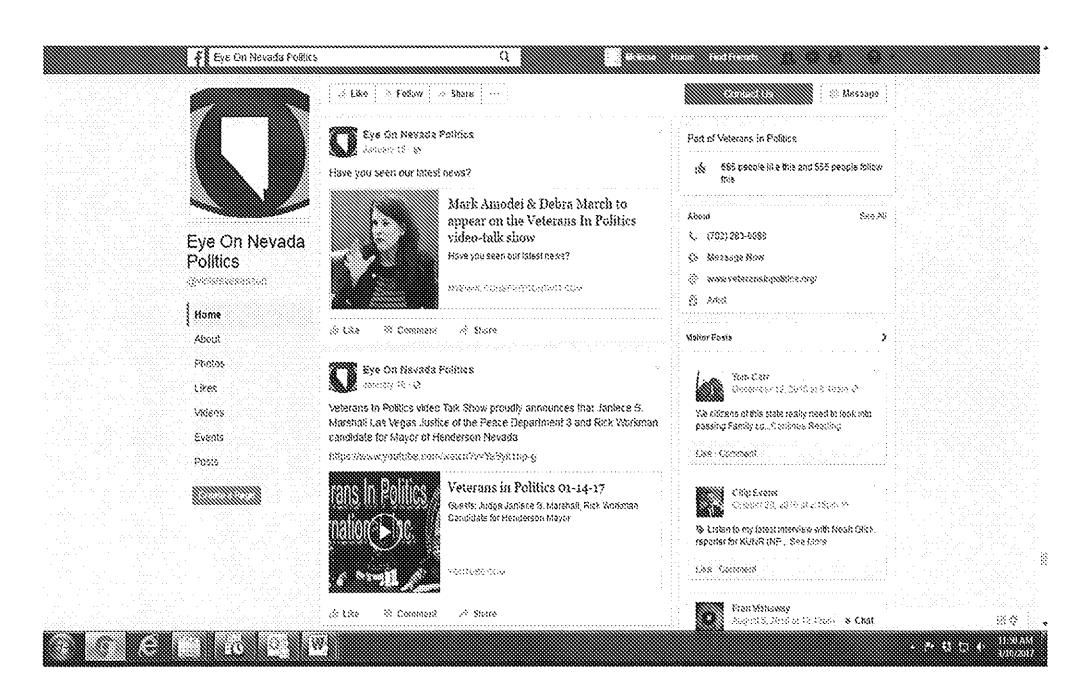


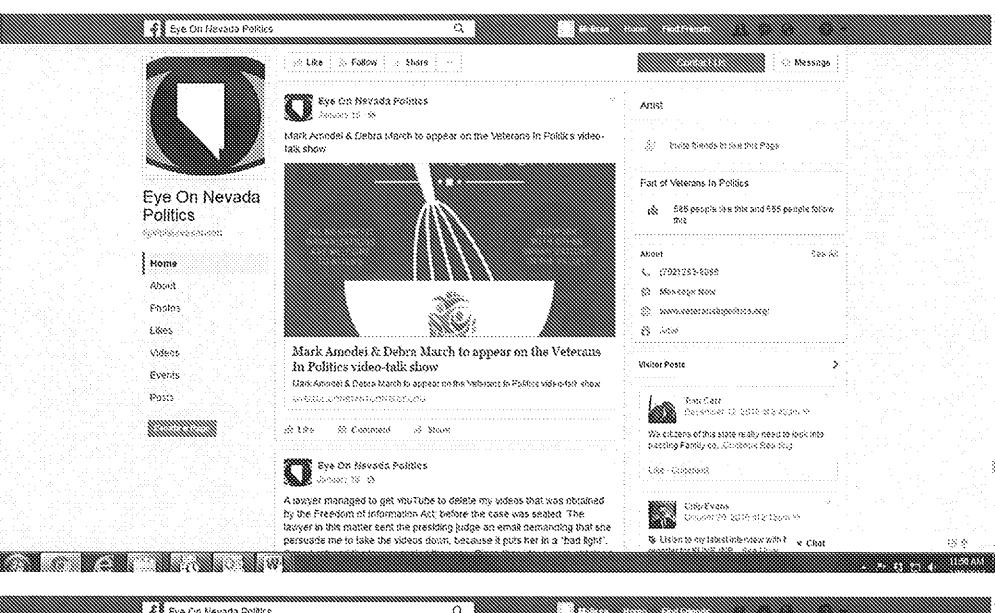


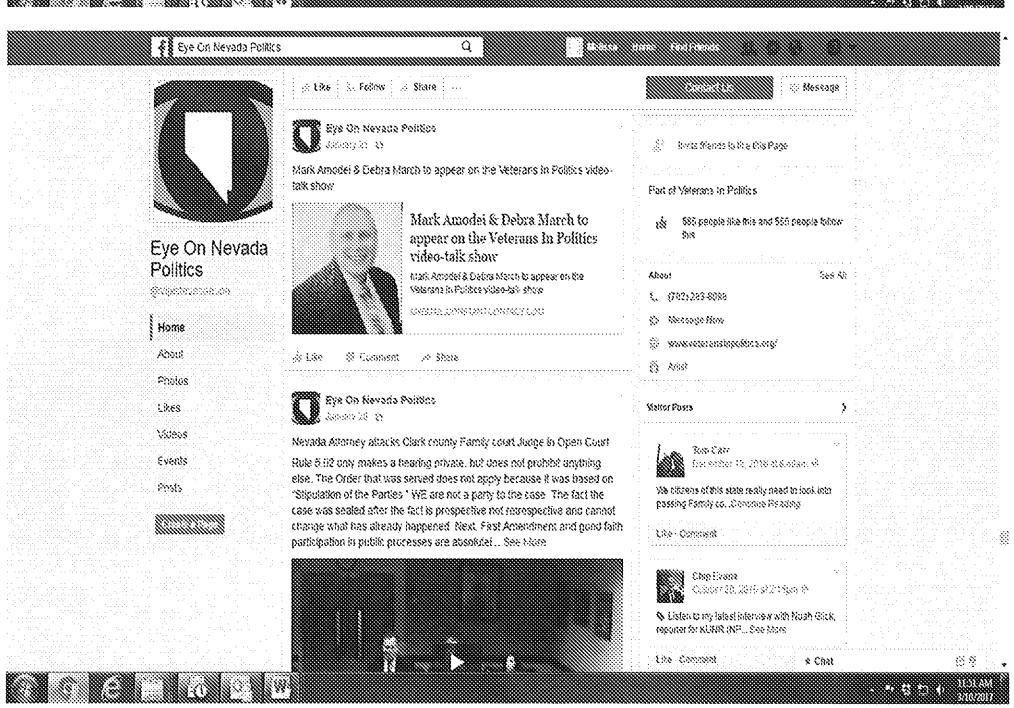


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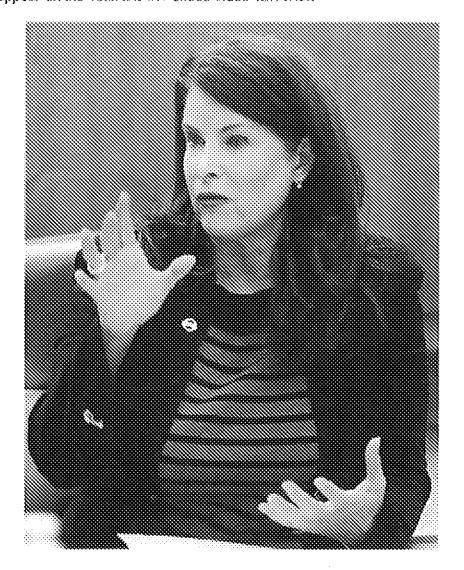
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Meet Crane



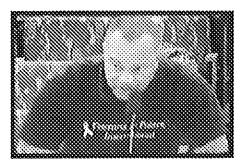
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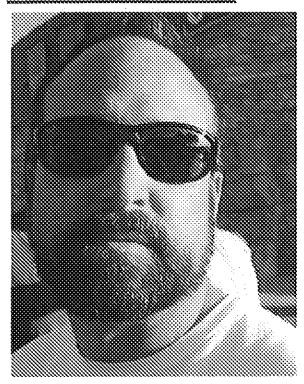
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Steven is a long time Nevada resident son of an Air Force Veteran and Family Court activist.

Sonnenburg will replace "Pirate" Mike Edwards. Thank you Mike Edwards for you dedication to the show.



Veterans In Politics International President Steve Sanson will fight for usl

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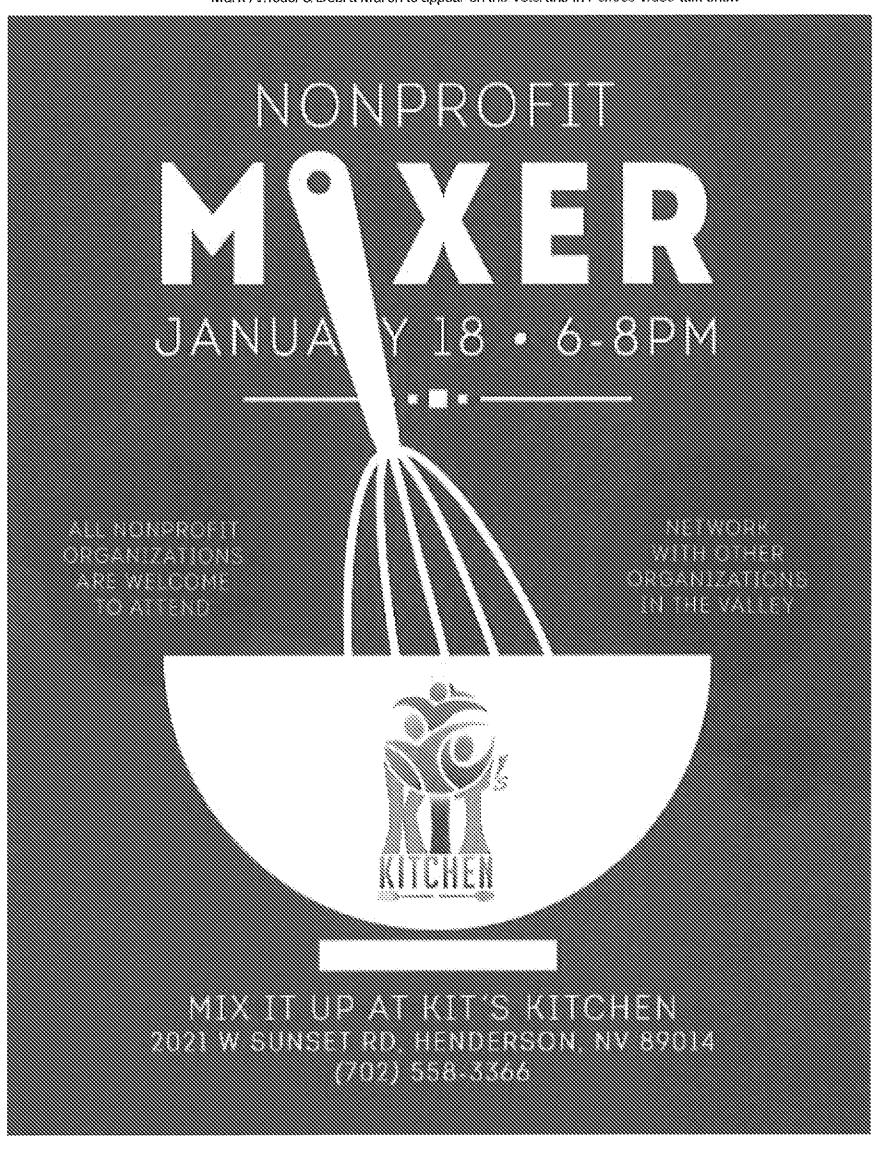
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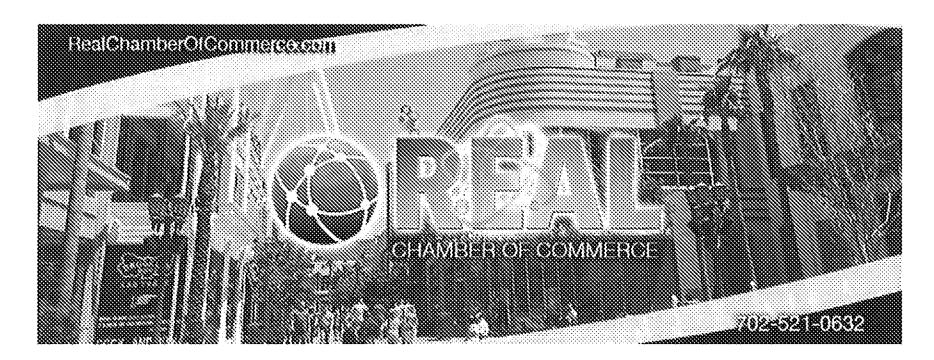
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## 





## Steve Sanson

Coward. I served in combat defending this country where were you? Coward. I faced you on my radio show. The Coward is you, when you testified by satellite in attempts to crush and take veterans service connected disability benefits to use for alimony. Not once, but twice, in two legislative sessions. You should have came to Carson City, we where waiting for you. You are the COWARD! By the way don't forget my veteran friends potested at your office and you cowardly filed suit against them. Because you hide behind a keyboard. You are the biggest COWARD that has passed the bar.



Write a comment...















the biggest COWARD that has passed the bar.

3 hours ago · Like · Reply



## Willick Law Group

Glad you brought it up. Your "friends" were eventually forced to write, sign, and post a public retraction and apology. It is posted on our web site (and, by court order, theirs). You should read it. You could save yourself a lot of time, money, and aggravation, by doing the same thing right now — before you are forced to do so by a court.

3 hours ago · Like · Reply



## Steve Sanson

Willick I know you wrote the complaint against me. The



Write a comment...















## Steve Sanson

Willick I know you wrote the complaint against me. The year has just begun. Let's talk about why you hide behind a keyboard and why didn't you have the guts to serve our country in our Armed Forces. By the way I never apologize when it's the truth!

2 hours ago · Like · ▲ 1 · Reply



### Steve Sanson

You made some defamatory statements against me in an effort to delibratly discredit me without any shread of evidence. By the way you are the most honest guy in town. I think NOT! I beleive before this year is over, you are the one that will write an apology. Have fun letting your ego get



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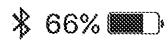


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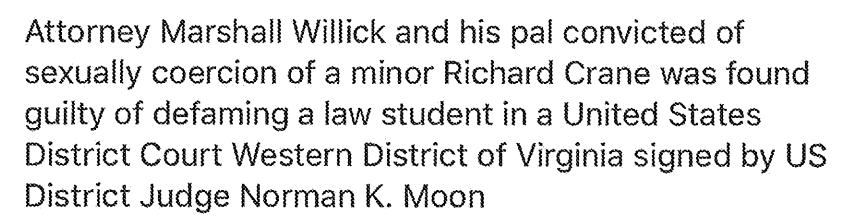
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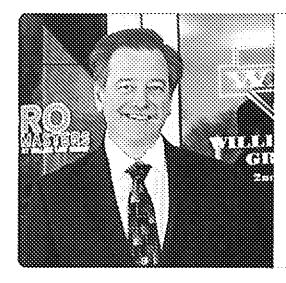


#### **Veterans In Politics International**

January 13 at 12:00am · 💮



http://veteransinpolitics.org/2017/01/attorneymarshall-willick-pal-convicted-sexually-coercionminor-richard-crane-found-guilty-defaming-lawstudent-united-states-district-court-western-districtvirginia/



# Attorney Marshall Willick and his pal convicted of sexually...

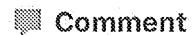
veteransinpolitics.org

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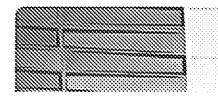


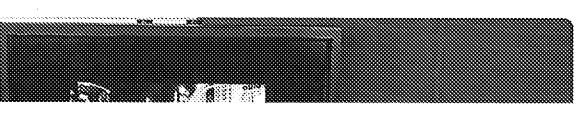
#### Veterans in Politics International

January 12 at 12:45am · 💮

Lawsuit accuses Las Vegas lawyer, veterans group leader of defamation

http://www.newsmaxtv.vegas/interview-with-steve-sanson/





## 19 people reacted to this.

Done



#### Lee Pudemonhuchin Gilford

And this is how the defamation lawsuits begin. Nothing you shared indicates that Willick did anything but employ a nasty bastard. You have intentionally indicated that he was convicted. I offer you a couple of choices to correct this, because as someone claiming to represent veterans, I would appreciate it at least being done in a legal way.

- A) provide evidence that Willick was convicted.
- B) change your caption
- C) take this crap to your personal page. You stand before political figures in this state, indicating that you represent veterans (me) here in Las Vegas. You therefore have an obligation to take our representation responsibly. Getting in to pissing wars and getting sued for libel does nothing but discredit the image of veterans, that some of us pride ourselves in maintaining

Like · Reply · More · Jan 13



## **Veterans In Politics International**

Look Lee you are a Marine correct.. Everything we put out is... More

Lee Pudemo... replied · See all 9 replies



Write a comment...

Post

#### 19 people reacted to this.

Done

You can't just make stuff up about people and post it; knowing it's wrong. That's the epitome of libel. So I'm asking you not to engage in criminal activities if you're publicly representing veterans.

There are plenty of other ways to measure Johnsons

Like · Reply · More · Jan 13



#### Veterans In Politics International

Look Lee you are a Marine correct..

Everything we put out is true.. If you don't believe that don't engage in our page. We been doing this for over a decade..

Maybe you should do your own reserach before you engage in another conversation with our group. Semper Fi

Like · Reply · More · Jan 13



#### Lee Pudemonhuchin Gilford

That's not how this works. That's not how any of this works. You are the media outlet of a state organization representing veterans. You are breaking the law. Speeding to work every day and not getting caught, doesn't suddenly make it legal. Similarly, you saying something is true, when the evidence you present is



Write a comment...

Post

# EXHIBIT 6

# EXHIBIT 6

# EXHBIT 6

FB Post Page 1 of 1



Steve Sanson

A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team; "When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner". So the same goes here when people needed somone to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation. Where are those people now when we need some assistance?

1/24/2017 1:00 PM (UTC -08:00)

0 comments.

FB Post Page 1 of 1



Steve Sanson
A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team; "When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner". So the same goes here when people needed somene to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation. Where are those people now when we need some assistance?

1/24/2017 1:17 PM (UTC -08:00)

2 comments.



Steve W. Sanson

A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team; "When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner".

So the same goes here when people needed somone to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation. Where are those people now when we need some assistance?

1/24/2017 1:19 PM (UTC -08:00)

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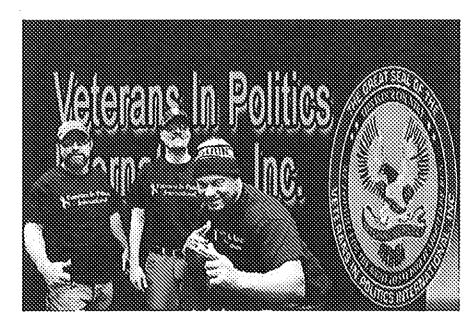
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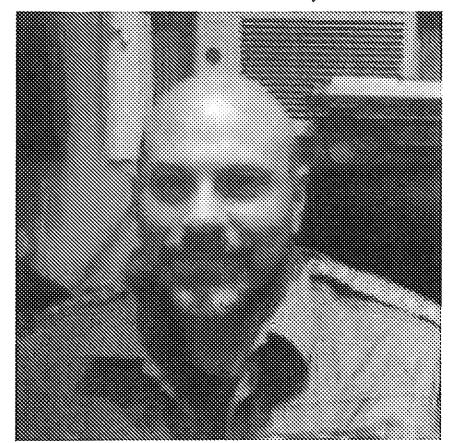
# Charles McChesney & Victoria Adams to appear on the Veterans In Politics video-talk show

Former Bail Agent & Spiritual Healer

FIND OUT MORE



"Veterans In Politics Talk Show" (McChesney & Adams)
Call Into the show 702 685 8380



Charles McChesney former ball enforcer discussing how the Federal Bureau of Investigations over reach when deciding who to target

**McChesney** 



Read More about Charles

Victoria Adams a Spiritual Healer

Read More about Victoria Adams

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA- - Veterans In Politics video Talk Show proudly announces that Charles McChesney former bail enforcer discussing how the Federal Bureau of Investigations over reach when deciding who to target and Victoria Adams a Spiritual Healer to appear on the "Veterans In Politics" internet video-talk-show as a special guest on Saturday - February 4, 2017 from 2-3pm PT. Listen and watch LIVE on Veterans In Politics Talk show now on World Wide Digital Broadcasting Corp.

For more than a decade the non-partisan "Veterans In Politics Talk-Show" (VIP Talk-Show) has informed listeners about national veteran and political issues.

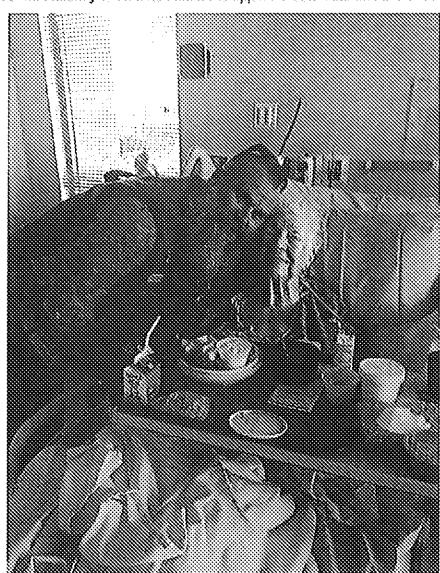
Past guests include active duty and veterans from all branches, authors, business owners, organization heads and political candidates and incumbents representing all parties from federal, state and local government branches.

The listening audience spans nationally and reaches a demographic of every gender, age and socioeconomic background. The VIP Talk-Show has become a trusted source of information and excerpts from past episodes have been quoted and published in reports of media and investigations of government agencies. Achievements include awards and special recognition's from countless non-profit organizations, Mayors and City Councils plus schools.

Listen to hosts **Steve Sanson**, **Jim Jonas and co-host Steven Sonnenburg** plus special guests co-hosts live during the VIP Talk-Show on every Saturday from 1400-1500 (2:00pm-3:00pm PT) on World Wide Digital Broadcasting Corp.

Learn More

WWW Veteran Irene Willer's Funeral

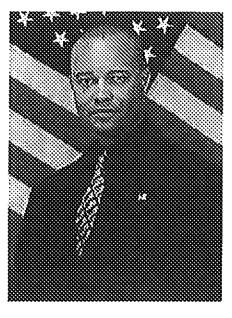


Attention...bikers, Veterans and fellow patriots!!! Our beloved Irene Miller's last wish was to have a Veterans Funeral and Memorial with "100's of motorcycles"!!

Her ceremony will be Tues Jan 31st at 1400 at the Veterans
Cemetery in Boulder City. Anyone... (Especially bikers) wanting
to help fulfill her wish need to be at Railroad pass casino no later
than 1300 on Tues the 31st. don't be late...I repeat Do Not Be
Latel!! Plan accordingly. The Marine Riders will road guard as we
escort our fallen Hero and WWII Vet to her final resting place. A
celebration of her wonderful life will be held immediately after at
The Leatherneck Club, 4360 Spring Mt rd. It will be taco
Tues...Taco bar will be free but donations will be appreciated. Let's
give this beautiful American and Patriot the sendoff she deserves!!!
All are welcome to ride...When asked why she volunteered for
WWII being a female her simple reply was..."because I'm an
American". Please share and let's make this a day for all to
remember and set an example of how we need to Honor our
Veterans. Respectfully, Pirate Mike

Learn More

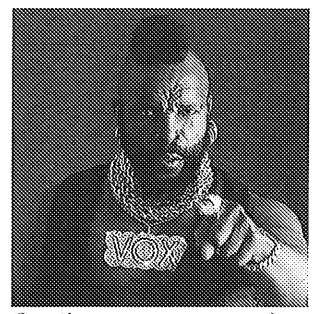
He Defended Us, Let's Defend Him!



Click Here for more information

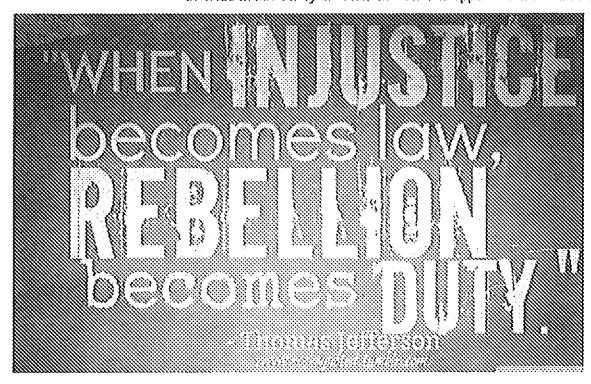
## Opinion Corner;

A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team; "When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner".



So the same goes here when people needed someone to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation.

Where are those people now when we need some assistance?



There needs to be an Over-site Committee that can help place the Family Court System into compliance with the law. There are too many personal bias, discretionary rulings and favoritism amongst attorneys and judges with this judicial branch.

A system that was created to help families stay together has been designed to tear them apart and has created tremendous financial burden on the shoulders of struggling citizens that are stuck in a very emotional time of their lives.

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Veterans In Politics video <u>Talk</u> Show proudly announces that **Mark Amodei** US Congressman Representing District 2 and **Debra March** Henderson City Councilwoman/Candidate for Henderson City Mayor





Please contribute to Veterans In Politics in an effort in helping us to continue our mission by Exposing Corruption, Champion Veterans Rights, and Educating the public on candidates running for elected

office: go to <u>www.veteransinpolitics.org</u> and click onto our PayPal Page or at our PO Box 28211/ Las Vegas, NV. 89126...

\*If you would like to be a guest on our show please contact: email

<u>veteransinpol@aol.com</u> or if you would like to place a commercial on anyone of our shows please dial 702 283 8088.

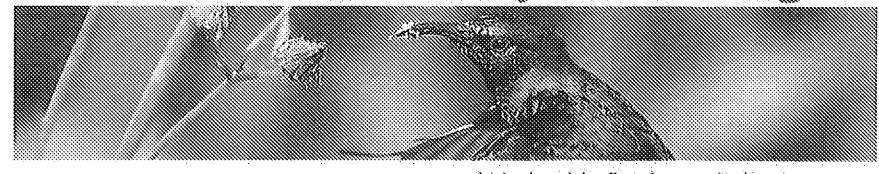
\*If you would like to visit any of our archived interviews go to our YouTube Channel.

Click here for our YouTube Channel or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1vBzrcEJOui3Cp5Bz-fT6Q and Click here for archived shows on Word Wide Digital Broadcasting Corp

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Click here for recent archived shows

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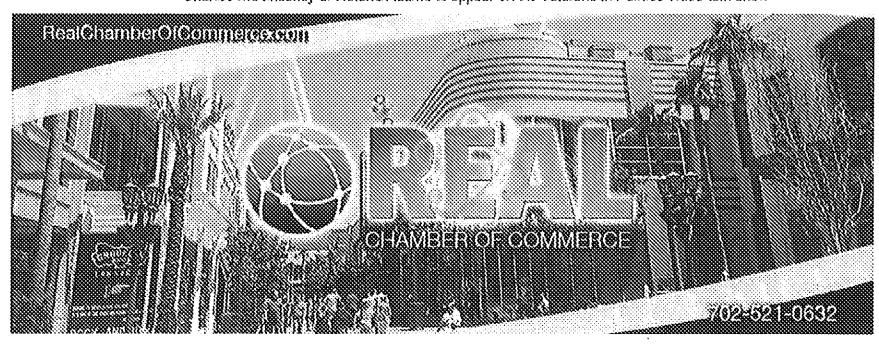




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702-283-8086
devildog1285@cs.com
www.veteransinpolitics.org

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1 2 3 4 5 6	MSTR Anat Levy, Esq. (State Bar No. 12550) ANAT LEVY & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421 Las Vegas, NV 89142 Phone: (310) 621-1199 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alevy96@aol.com">alevy96@aol.com</a> ; Fax: (310) 734-1538 Attorney for: DEFENDANTS VETERANS IN POSTEVE SANSON	CLERK OF THE COURT
7 8	DISTRICT ( CLARK COUNT	
9 10 11 12 13	MARSHALL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW GROUP,  Plaintiffs,  vs.	) CASE NO. A-17-750171-C ) ) DEPT. NO.: 18 ) ) Hearing Date: 3/14/2017 ) Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.
14 15 16 17	STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA; CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; DON WOOOLBRIGHTS; VETERNAS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.; SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN STEELMON; and DOES 1 THROUGH X	) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )
18	Defendants.	) - )

# MOTION TO STRIKE AND RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' UNTIMELY SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF

Defendants Veterans in Politics International, Inc. and Steve W. Sanson hereby respond and move, by and through their counsel of record Anat Levy of Anat Levy & Associates, P.C., to strike the Affidavit of Marshal Willick filed on March 13, 2017 in Opposition to Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion. The Affidavit actually constitutes an impermissible supplemental brief, is untimely, exceeds the allowable page limits, is subject to numerous evidentiary objections, and is unmeritorious.

This motion is made pursuant to NRCP 12(f), and is based on this motion, the notice of motion below, the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the motions to strike

1	and filed concurrently herewith, the pleadings and court records, and any argument and		
2	evidence submitted at the time of hearing.		
3			
4 5	DATED: February 24, 2017		
6	By:  Attorney for: VETERANS IN POLITICS  INTERNATIONAL, INC. and STEVE W. SANSON		
7	Anat Levy, Esq.  NV Bar No. 12250		
8	Anat Levy & Associates, P.C. 5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421		
10	Las Vegas, NV 89142 Cell: (310) 621-1199		
11	Alevy96@aol.com		
12	NOTICE OF MOTION		
13	TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:		
14	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel will appear at the Clark County		
15	Courthouse, Eighth Judicial District Court, Las Vegas, Nevada on the 14th day of March, 2017		
16	at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVIII, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, to bring this		
17	MOTION TO STRIKE, on for hearing.		
18	DATED: March 13, 2017  Lund May		
19	By: Attorney for: VETERANS IN POLITICS		
20 21	INTERNATIONAL, INC. and STEVE W. SANSON		
22	Anat Levy, Esq.		
23	NV Bar No. 12250 Anat Levy & Associates, P.C.		
24	5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421		
	Las Vegas, NV 89142 Cell: (310) 621-1199		
25	Alevy96@aol.com		
26			
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## 

#### **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

NRCP 12(f) permits the Court to strike "any insufficient defense, or any redundant, impertinent, or scandalous matter" from a pleading.

At 12:26 p.m., the day before this hearing, Plaintiff attorney Marshal Willick served a 14 page legal brief, with 72 pages of exhibits, mistitled as a "Supplemental Declaration" in opposition to Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion (the "Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief")

Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief should be stricken or disregarded for the following reasons:

1. THE SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IS UNTIMELY, CAUSES THE PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO EXCEED THE COURT'S PAGE LIMITS, AND WAS FILED WITHOUT LEAVE OF COURT IN VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

Plaintiffs' opposition to Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion was due at the latest on March 8, 2017, assuming arguendo that Plaintiffs had the same time to oppose the anti-SLAPP motion as they would have had to oppose a motion for summary judgement, since both operate as an adjudication on the merits. In reality, however, their Opposition should have been filed before then, given that anti-SLAPP motions are set for hearing on shortened time. In any event, Plaintiffs E-filed and served a 20 page Opposition brief on March 8. Plaintiffs' brief was replete with fanciful accusations of extortion, coercion and other crimes, but was unsupported by <u>any</u> admissible evidence.

On March 9, 2017 Defendants filed their Reply pointing to the lack of evidence and responding to the various unmeritorious arguments made in Plaintiffs' Opposition. Given the timing of Plaintiffs' Opposition, Defendants had only one day to prepare and file their Reply so that the Court could have it at least five days before this hearing pursuant to EDCR 2.20(h). Defendants filed their Reply in one day, on time, out of respect for the Court and its rules of procedure, so that it would not be subject to a motion to strike as untimely, and out of fairness to Plaintiffs to give them ample time to prepare for the hearing.

Without leave of Court, at 12:26pm today, less than 24 hours before this hearing, Plaintiffs filed a 14 page brief with 72 pages of purported exhibits. Although the brief is entitled "Affidavit of Marshal S. Willick In Support of Plaintiff's Opposition to Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss, etc." it is actually a supplemental brief that is not permitted under the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure without leave of court. The Supplemental Brief is comprised almost exclusively of legal argument, and recites few facts that may actually be within Plaintiff attorney Marshal Willick's personal knowledge.

Moreover, the Supplemental Brief effectively causes Plaintiffs' entire Objection to exceed the 30 page allowable page-limit -- 20 pages in the original Opposition, and another 14 pages in the Supplemental Brief for a total of 34 pages -- without the required leave of Court.

As such, Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief should be stricken or disregarded.

# 2. THE "AFFIDAVIT" IS REPLETE WITH INADMISSIBLE STATEMENTS SUBJECT TO EVIDENTIARY OBJECTIONS.

If the Court does not strike the Supplemental Brief, then Defendants make the following evidentiary objections to Plaintiffs' purported Affidavit, and respectfully requests that the Court rule thereon:

PORTION OF AFFIDAVIT	GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION
Page 2, lines 7 and 8, strike "smear	Conclusory fact on "smear campaign"; Legal
campaigns," and "defamatory" email blasts	Conclusion on "defamatory."
Page 3, lines 5-7 "Apparently this is because	Speculation; Lack of Foundation.
the interview contained so much of Sanson's	
foul-mouthed screaming that it reflected badly	
on him and his organization."	
Page 3, lines 16-18: "they were paid by Louis	Speculation; Lack of Foundation; scandalous.
Schneider, Esq. to launch a "smear campaign"	
against my fiancé, Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.	
in an effort to coerce and intimidate her into	
withdrawing a sanctions motion she filed	
against Schneider in a divorce case that I have	
no part of."	
Page 3, lines 19-21: "After the VIPI	Speculation; Lack of Foundation; Legal
Defendants disseminated a series of	Conclusion with regard to "defamatory".
defamatory material against Ms. Abrams, it is	
my understanding that they ran a background	
check on Ms. Abrams to find information	
about her, and found nothing disparaging."	

1	Page 4, lines 9-12: "It is no coincidence that	Speculation; Lack of Foundation; Legal
2	this defamatory material was broadcast	Conclusion with regard to "defamatory
2	shortly after the VIPI defendants were paid by	material;" Irrelevant and Scandalous.
3	Louis Schneider to disseminate "smear	
	campaigns" against my fiancé and	
4	immediately after they learned of the	
5	relationship between me and Ms. Abrams."	
5	Page 4, lines 19-Page 5, line 2: "While the	Legal Argument; Lack of Foundation;
6	timing and focus of the 'hypocrisy' article	Speculation.
	evidence the VIPI Defendants' comments	
7	actual malice against me, the "sexually	
8	coercion" article and the VIPI Defendants'	
Ü	comments regarding that article heave no	
9	doubt that the purpose of the repeated	
10	publications was to try to find some way to	
10	injure me personally and professionally."	
11	Page 8, lines 3-7: "Steve Sanson falsely states	Legal Argument; Speculation.
	in his "Supplemental Declaration In other	
12	words, Steve Sanson has recently and directly	
13	lied to this Court, and is fully aware of that	
13	lie."	
14	Page 9, line 11 – Page 10, line 16	Legal Argument.
1.5	Page 10, Footnote 8	Irrelevant; Legal Argument.
15	Page 11, line 3 – Page 12, line 17, and	Legal Argument.
16	footnotes 11, 12 and 13.	
	Page 13, lines 1-6: "In short, I have been	Argument; Legal conclusions with regard to
17	made the target of a months-long campaign of	what constitutes "defamation," "public
18	defamation having nothing to do with any	concern," whether any speech at issue has to
	issue of public concern, and having nothing to	do with legislation, whether Defendants are
19	do with any legislation, testimony, or anything	running a "criminal syndicate" or are engaged
20	else with which I am remotely connected.	in "extortion" and "defamed" Plaintiffs. Also
20	The Defendants are a criminal syndicate	irrelevant, lack of foundation and speculative
21	engaged in extortion against my fiancé, and	with regard to "criminal syndicate" and
	defamation against me. It is inexcusable,	"extortion."
22	unlawful and should be both stopped and	
	punished accordingly."	

#### 3. THE SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IS UNMERITORIOUS.

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In the event that the Court is willing to entertain the substance of Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief (which it should not), Defendants respond as follows to its main points:

Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief centers on the January 12, 2017 VIPI post which inadvertently omitted two commas and read as follows – the brackets show where the intended commas should have been: "Attorney Marshall Willick[,] and his pal convicted of sexually

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coercion of a minor, Richard Crane[,] was found guilty of defaming a law student in United States District Court Western District of Virginia signed by US District Judge Norman K. Moon."

First, Defendants have rechecked each of the alleged postings itemized in Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief which Plaintiffs claim show that the original ambiguous statement is still available for public viewing online. Upon Defendants' further investigation, it appears that the original statement resides on VIPI's Constant Contact account, which Plaintiffs shut down and to which Defendants have not had access since February 1, 2017. See notice from Constant Contact attached as Ex. 15, page 9 of Sanson's Initial Decl., filed in support of anti-SLAPP motion. In January 2017 Plaintiffs had sent take down notices to Facebook, Vimeo and other of Defendants' vendors having them take down specific posts pertaining to them, which those See other take down notifications attached as Ex. 15 to Sanson's Initial Declaration. As of February 1, 2017, Defendants were locked out of VIPI's Constant Contact account and could not take any action on it. Had Plaintiffs simply provided their list to Defendants months ago and had they not caused the shutdown of Defendants' account, Defendants would have been able to remove the original version of this January 12 statement from Constant Contact and it would no longer be viewable from any other site to which Constant Contact is linked. Indeed, if Plaintiffs withdraw their complaint to Constant Contact, Defendants would do this immediately upon the reactivation of VIPI's account.

Moreover, NRS 41.338 provides that if a correction to a statement is made before a demand for correction is requested, then only special damages would be recoverable. NRS 41.336. NRS 41.335 defines "special damages" as those relating to business, trade, profession or occupation. Here, Plaintiffs made no demand to take the post at issue down before filing their complaint on 1/27/2017, and Defendants weren't served with the Complaint until February 3 and 6, 2017 – days after being locked out of VIPI's Constant Contact account. Moreover, Plaintiffs have made no factual allegations and provided no evidence whatsoever of any special damages.

Second, the Virginia Court's finding that Plaintiff Willick committed Defamation per se

against his opponent, was based on Plaintiffs' claims to third parties that his opponent was guilty of kidnapping and other felonies. Moreover, Plaintiffs' statements in Virginia were made in written letters without including any source materials on which their statements were based. In the present case, Defendants at all times provided hyperlinks to the source materials, including the Virginia Judge's order in which he expressly found that Willick committed Defamation per se. Moreover, the Order is clearly civil in nature.

Third, while Plaintiffs claim that the Clarification of this statement was itself "defamatory," they continue to fail to explain how or why.

DATED: March 13, 2017

By:

Attorney for: VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC. and STEVE W.

Chat My

SANSON

Anat Levy, Esq. NV Bar No. 12250

Anat Levy & Associates, P.C.

5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421 Las Vegas, NV 89142

Cell: (310) 621-1199 Alevy96@aol.com

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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I am over the age of 18 and am not a party to the within action.

On the date indicated below, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the document entitled MOTION TO STRIKE (NRCP § 12(f)) on the below listed recipients by requesting the court's wiznet website to E-file and E-serve such document to their respective email addresses as indicated below.

Alex Ghoubadi, Esq.

G Law

320 E. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 105

Las Vegas, NV 89104

(702) 217-7442

alex@alexglaw.com

**Courtesy Copy:** 

(702) 222-4021

Maggie McLetchie, Esq.

Jennifer Abrams, Esq.

Las Vegas, NV 89118

The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

6252 S. Rainbow Blvd., Ste. 100

JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com

McLetchie Shell

702 E. Bridger Ave., Ste. 520

Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 728-5300 Maggie@nvlitigation.com

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

Executed this 24th day of February 2017, in Las Vegas, NV



Request is made that Dennis L. Kennedy and Joshua P. Gilmore of the law firm Bailey Kennedy be included on the service or mailing list for all pleadings, correspondence, and other papers filed or served in this matter. DATED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017. **BAILEY \* KENNEDY** By: <u>/s/ Joshua P. Gilmore</u> Dennis L. Kennedy JOSHUA P. GILMORE Attorneys for Plaintiffs
Marshal S. Willick and Willick Law Group 

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I am an employee of BAILEY KENNEDY and that on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017, service of the foregoing **NOTICE OF ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL** 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 & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	Email: alevy96@aol.com
5841 E. Charleston Boulevard, #230-421 Las Vegas, NV 89142	Attorneys for Defendants VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC. and STEVE SANSON
Alex Ghibaudo <b>G LAW</b>	Email: alex@alexglaw.com
703 S. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street Las Vegas, NV 89101	Attorneys for Defendants VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC. and STEVE SANSON
JENNIFER V. ABRAMS THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM 6252 South Poinhow Plyd Sto 100	Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com
6252 South Rainbow Blvd., Ste. 100 Las Vegas, NV 89118	Attorneys for Defendants VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC. and STEVE SANSON

/s/ Susan Russo
Employee of BAILEY ❖KENNEDY

Page 3 of 3

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#### REGISTER OF ACTIONS

CASE No. A-17-750171-C

Marshal Willick, Plaintiff(s) vs. Steve Sanson, Defendant(s)

Case Type: Intentional Misconduct
Date Filed: 01/27/2017

Location: **Department 18**Cross-Reference Case Number: **A750171** 

8000

§

§

PARTY INFORMATION

**Lead Attorneys** 

Location: District Court Civil/Criminal Help

Defendant Hanusa, Heidi J

Defendant Ortiz, Christina

Defendant Sanson Corporation

Defendant Sanson, Steve W Annat R. Levy, ESQ

Retained 310-621-1199(W)

Defendant Spicer, Johnny

Defendant Steelmon, Karen

Defendant Veterans in Politics International Inc Annat R. Levy, ESQ

Retained 310-621-1199(W)

Defendant Woolbright, Don

Plaintiff Willick Law Group Jennifer V. Abrams

Retained

702-222-4021(W)

Plaintiff Willick, Marshal S Jennifer V. Abrams

Retained

702-222-4021(W)

EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT

03/14/2017 All Pending Motions (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer Thompson, Charles)

#### Minutes

03/14/2017 9:00 AM

Defendants' Anti-Slapp Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq. ... Plaintiffs' Opposition to Anti-Slapp Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Arguments by counsel. Court stated its Findings the statute does not apply in this instance and ORDERED, Defendants' Anti-Slapp Special Motion to Dismiss is DENIED. FURTHER ORDERED, Plaintiffs' Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs is DENIED. Ms. Levy requested stay of proceedings to pursue an appeal to Supreme Court. Objection by Mr. Gilmore who requested counsel file a written motion. Court not inclined to address the oral request noting there are still matters pending which may have merit. Mr. Gilmore to prepare the order within 10 days and

AA001602

distribute a filed copy to all parties involved in this matter.

Parties Present Return to Register of Actions

AA001603

1	Anat Levy, Esq. (State Bar No. 12250)		
2	ANAT LEVY & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421		
3	Las Vegas, NV 89142	Flootropically Files	J
4	Phone: (310) 621-1199	Electronically Filed Aug 21 2017 03:00	ג ס p.m.
5	E-mail: <u>alevy96@aol.com;</u> Fax: (310) 734-1538	Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme	1
6	Attorney for: APPELLANTS, Veterans In	Politics International, Inc.	Oodit
7	and Steve W. Sanson		
8			
9	IN THE SUPREME CO	OURT OF NEVADA	
10			
11	VETERANS IN POLITICS	) SUP. CT. CASE #: 72778	
12	INTERNATIONAL, INC.; AND STEVE W. SANSON	)	
13		) DIST. CT. CASE #:	
14	Appellants,	) A-17-750171-C (Dept. 18)	
15	vs.	)	
16	MADGHAL C WHILION AND	)	
17	MARSHAL S. WILLICK; AND WILLICK LAW GROUP,	)	
18	Dagnandanta	)	
19	Respondents.	)	
20		)	
21		_ )	
22			
23	APPELLANTS	' APPENDIX	
24	VOLUME V	/II OF IX	
25	A 10 TH 1 TH 1 TH		
26	Appeal from Eight Judicial D	1strict Court, Clark County	
27	Senior Judge, Hon. Charle	es Thompson, Dept. 18	
28			

APPELLANTS' APPENDIX

Docket 72778 Document 2017-27958

### **INDEX TO APPELLANTS' APPENDIX**

<u>DOCUMENT</u>	DATE	VOL.	BATES
			NUMBERS
Abrams v. Schneider:	7/24/2017	IX	AA001970-
Notice of Entry of Order			AA001993
(Granting Anti-SLAPP			
Motion)			
Abrams v. Schneider:	6/22/2017	IX	AA001955-
Minute Order Re: Special			AA001957
Motion to Dismiss Pursuant			
to NRS 41.660 (Anti-			
SLAPP); Schneider			
Defendants Special Motion			
to Dismiss Plaintiffs SLAPP			
Suite Pursuant to NRS			
41.660 and Requests for			
Attorney's Fees, Costs, and			
Damages Pursuant to NRS			
41.670			
Affidavit of Marshal S.	3/13/2017	VII	AA001504-
Willick in Support of			AA001590
Plaintiff's Opposition to			
Anti-SLAPP Special Motion			
to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS			
41.650 et. seq.; and			
Countermotion for			
Attorney's Fees and Costs			
Ansell v. Ansell: Amended	7/22/2017	IX	AA001962-
Deposition Subpoena			AA001966
Deuces Tecum served on			
Steve Sanson			
Ansell v. Ansell: Letter	7/13/2017	IX	AA001958-
from Verizon advising of			AA001961
and attaching Subpoena			
Deuces Tecum served on			
Verizon Wireless			

1 2	DOCUMENT	DATE	VOL.	BATES NUMBERS
3	Ansell v. Ansell: Motion to Quash Subpoena Duces	8/4/2017	IX	AA002009- AA002023
4	Tecum and Deposition			7 M 1002023
5	Subpoena Served on Steve Sanson on July 22, 2017			
6 7	Ansell v. Ansell: Motion to Quash Subpoena Served on	7/26/2017	IX	AA001994- AA002008
	Verizon Wireless			7111002000
8	Ansell v. Ansell: Second	7/22/2017	IX	AA001967-
9	Amended Notice of Taking Video Taped Deposition			AA001969
10	Served on Steve Sanson on			
11	7/22/2017			
12	Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS	2/17/2017	I	AA000053- AA000081
13	41.650 et. seq.			AA000081
14	Complaint for Damages	1/27/2017	I	AA000001- AA000028
15	Declaration of Anat Levy in	2/17/2017	II-V	AA000351-
16	Support of Anti-SLAPP			AA000946
17	Motion (with Exs.)  Declaration of Anat Levy in	4/7/2017	VIII-IX	AA001721-
18	Support of Motion to Stay	4/ //2017	VIII-IX	AA001721- AA001909
19	Proceedings Pending Appeal on Denial of			
20	Defendants' Anti-SLAPP			
21	Motion			
22	Declaration of Levy;	3/26/2017	VIII	AA001674-
23	Proposed Order Attached Thereto			AA001681
24	Declaration of Service of	2/4/2017	I	AA000029
25	Complaint on Steve Sanson	(service date)	т	A A 000020
26	Declaration of Service of Complaint on Veterans in	2/6/2017 (service date)	I	AA000030
27	Politics International, Inc.			

<u>DOCUMENT</u>	DATE	VOL.	BATES NUMBERS
Declaration of Steve Sanson in Support of Anti-SLAPP	2/17/2017	I-II	AA000082- AA000350
Motion (with Exs.)			
Defendants' Ex Parte		IX	AA001910-
Motion to Shorten Time on			AA001920
Motion to Stay Proceedings			
Pending Appeal on Order			
Denying Defendants' Anti-			
SLAPP Motion			
Errata to Opposition to	3/8/2017	VII	AA001477-
Anti-SLAPP Special Motion			AA001479
to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS			
41.650 et. seq.; and			
Countermotion for			
Attorney's Fees and Costs			
Exhibits to Opposition to	3/8/2017	VII	AA001446-
Anti-SLAPP Motion to			AA001476
Dismiss Pursuant to NRS			
41.650 et. seq., and			
Countermotion for			
Attorney's Fees and Costs			
First Amended Complaint	4/3/2017	VIII	AA001692-
			AA001706
Minute Order of Hearing on	3/14/2017	VII	AA001602-
Defendants' Anti-SLAPP			AA001603
Motion			
Motion to Dismiss for	2/24/2017	V	AA000952-
Failure to State a Claim			AA000983
(NRCP §12(b)(5))			
Motion to Dismiss Ninth	2/24/2017	V	AA000947-
Cause of Action for			AA000951
Copyright Infringement for			
Lack of Subject Matter			
Jurisdiction (NRCP			
§12(b)(1))			

1	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	DATE	VOL.	BATES NUMBERS
2	Motion to Stay Proceedings	4/7/2017	VIII	AA001709-
3	Pending Appeal on Denial			AA001720
4	of Defendants' Anti-SLAPP			
5	Motion			
	Motion to Strike	2/24/2017	V	AA000984-
6				AA000992
7	Motion to Strike and	3/13/2017	VII	AA001591-
8	Response to Plaintiff's			AA001598
	Untimely Supplemental			
9	Brief			
10	Notice of Appeal	4/3/2017	VIII	AA001707-
11		0/10/0017	****	AA001708
	Notice of Association of	3/13/2017	VII	AA001599-
12	Counsel	2/21/2017	XXXX	AA001601
13	Notice of Entry of Order	3/31/2017	VIII	AA001682-
1.4	Denying: (i) The VIPI			AA001691
14	Defendants' Anti-SLAPP			
15	Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et.			
16	seq.; (ii) the Willick			
1.5	Parties' Countermotion for			
17	Attorney's Fees and Costs			
18	Notice of Entry of Order	4/11/2017	IX	AA001921-
19	Shortening Time	.,		AA001926
20	Notice of Entry of Order	5/9/2017	IX	AA001950-
20	Staying Proceedings			AA001954
21	Opposition to Anti-SLAPP	3/8/2017	VII	AA001422-
22	Special Motion to Dismiss			AA001445
22	Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et.			
23	seq.; and Countermotion for			
24	Attorney's Fees and Costs			
25				

APPELLANTS' APPENDIX

1	<u>DOCUMENT</u>	DATE	VOL.	BATES
2	District CC 2 Constitution to	4/14/2017	IV	NUMBERS
3	Plaintiffs' Opposition to	4/14/2017	IX	AA001927-
	Defendants Steve W.			AA001933
4	Sanson and Veterans in			
5	Politics International, Inc.'s			
6	Motion to Stay Proceedings			
	Pending Appeal on Order			
7	Denying Defendants' Anti-			
8	SLAPP Motion	2/20/2017	37111	A A 001 671
	Plaintiffs' Response to	3/20/2017	VIII	AA001671-
9	Defendants Steve W.			AA001673
10	Sanson and Veterans in			
11	Politics International, Inc.'s			
	(i) Motion to Dismiss Ninth			
12	Cause of Action for			
13	Copyright Infringement for			
1.4	Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction (N.R.C.P.			
14	12(b)(1)); (ii) Motion to			
15	Dismiss for Failure to State			
16	a Claim (N.R.C.P.			
	12(b)(5)); and (iii) Motion			
17	to Strike			
18	Reply in Support of	3/9/2017	VII	AA001480-
19	Defendants' Anti-SLAPP	3/ // 2017	V 11	AA001498
1)	Special Motion to Dismiss			111001170
20	Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et.			
21	seq.			
22	Reply in Support of Motion	4/18/2017	IX	AA001934-
22	to Stay Proceedings Pending			AA001949
23	Appeal on Order Denying			
24	Defendants' Anti-SLAPP			
	Motion			
25	Request for Judicial Notice	2/24/2017	V-VI	AA000993-
26	in Support of Motion to			AA001288
27	Dismiss for Failure to State			
	a Claim (with Exs.)			
28				

of Steve Sanson in Opposition to Motion for Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt  Saiter v. Saiter: Notice of Entry of Order  Saiter v. Saiter: Motion for an Order to Show Cause  Saiter v. Saiter: Opposition to Motion for Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt  Supplemental Declaration of Steve Sanson in Support of Anti-SLAPP Motion  Transcript of Proceedings  AA00142  AA00178  AA00178  AA00178  AA00178  AA00178  AA00179  I AA00003  AA00005  AA00005  AA00128  AA00130  Show Cause Re: Contempt  Supplemental Declaration of Steve Sanson in Support of Anti-SLAPP Motion  Transcript of Proceedings  AA00160	DOCUMENT	DATE	VOL.	BATES NUMBERS
Saiter v. Saiter:Notice of Entry of Order3/21/2017VIIIAA00178 AA00180Saiter v. Saiter:Motion for an Order to Show Cause2/13/2017IAA00003 	eve Sanson in sition to Motion for to Show Cause Re:	3/6/2017	VI-VII	AA001306- AA001421
an Order to Show Cause  Saiter v. Saiter: Opposition 3/6/2017  VI AA00128 to Motion for Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt  Supplemental Declaration of Steve Sanson in Support of Anti-SLAPP Motion  Transcript of Proceedings Re: Defendants' Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to  AA00160  AA00167	v. Saiter: Notice of	3/21/2017	VIII	AA001787- AA001809
to Motion for Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt  Supplemental Declaration of Steve Sanson in Support of Anti-SLAPP Motion  Transcript of Proceedings Re: Defendants' Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to  AA00130  AA00149  AA00149  AA00150  AA00160  AA00167	v. Saiter: Motion for	2/13/2017	I	AA000031- AA000052
Steve Sanson in Support of Anti-SLAPP Motion  Transcript of Proceedings Re: Defendants' Anti- SLAPP Special Motion to  AA00150  AA00150  AA00160  AA00167	otion for Order to	3/6/2017	VI	AA001289- AA001305
Re: Defendants' Anti- SLAPP Special Motion to  AA00167	Sanson in Support of	3/9/2017	VII	AA001499- AA001503
Dismiss Pursuant to NRS	Pefendants' Anti-PP Special Motion to	3/14/2017	VIII	AA001604- AA001670
41.650 et. seq. and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs	0 et. seq. and termotion for			

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

132. Defendants threatened Plaintiffs with the publication of a libel concerning Plaintiffs with the intent to extort the withdrawal of the *Motion for Sanctions and Attorney Fees* and related legal proceedings in the "D" case. (NRS 200.560).

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

134. Defendants, in the course of their enterprise, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, engaged in an act, practice or course of business or employed a device, scheme or artifice which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person by means of a false representation or omission of a material fact that Defendants know to be false or omitted, Defendants intend for others to rely on, and results in a loss to those who relied on the false representation or omission in at least two transactions 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 within 4 years and in which the aggregate loss or intended loss is more than \$650. (NRS 205.377).

135. Defendants posted false and defamatory material no less than 130 times in six separate defamatory campaigns against Plaintiffs. The total value of time expended by Jennifer Abrams, and The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm staff in

responding to inquiries from clients, protecting client privacy, and attempting to have the defamatory material removed from the internet was over \$15,000 and this does not include the costs of missed opportunities or time that should have been spent working on cases for paying clients. (NRS 205.377 and NRS 207.360(9)).

- 136. It was the intent of the Defendants to cause harm to Plaintiffs and Plaintiff's client and the aggregate costs far exceed the \$650 threshold. Each act which violates subsection one constitutes a separate offense and a person who violates subsection one is guilty of a category B felony.
- 137. Additionally, NRS 205.0832 defines the actions which constitute theft as including that which:

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

Additionally the statute goes on to define the theft as a person or entity that "Takes, destroys, conceals or disposes of property in which another person has a security interest, with intent to defraud that person," Time is a lawyer's stock in trade. Defendants—with malice—stole valuable time from Plaintiffs. Also, the theft of Jennifer Abrams and The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm's "good will" by the making of false and defamatory comments and placing both Jennifer Abrams and The Abrams

& Mayo Law Firm in a false light has diminished the value of the business. These are intangible thefts, but thefts nonetheless.<sup>11</sup>

138. Defendants attempted to extort Plaintiffs to withdraw the *Motion for Sanctions and Attorney's Fees* through a series of veiled threats. When Plaintiffs refused to withdraw the motion, Defendants disseminated additional defamatory material with the intent to do damage to Plaintiffs and threatened to continue doing so unless the motion was withdrawn. (NRS 207.360(10)).

139. The Defendants have attempted to or did use extortion to influence the outcome of at least one other pending family law case.

140. Defendants' illegal conduct resulted in damages to Plaintiffs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, Jennifer Abrams and The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm, 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.

# XIV. TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (INJUNCTION)

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

142. Defendants and/or Defendant's agents, representatives, and/or employees, either individually, or in concert with others are attempting to extort a result in the "D" case litigation by unlawful out-of-court means. The "D" case

n Goodwill – "A business's reputation, patronage, and other intangible assets that are considered when appraising the business, especially for purchase." Black's Law Dictionary 279 (Bryan A. Garner ed., Pocket ed., West 1996).

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litigation is ongoing and an injunction is necessary to stop the extortion and continuation of harm and damage to Plaintiffs.

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

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request the following injunctive relief:

- a. That all defamatory writings, video, postings, or any other documents or public display of the same, concerning Jennifer Abrams, The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm, and the employees of the same, be removed from public view within 10 days of the issuance of the injunction.
- b. That all innuendo of illegal, immoral, or unethical conduct that has already been attributed by defendants to Plaintiffs, must never be repeated by any named Defendant or any member of any of the named organizations. Generalities toward lawyers in general will constitute a violation of the injunction.
- c. That a full retraction and apology be authored by Defendants Steve W. Sanson and Louis C. Schneider and disseminated everywhere the defamation occurred, including, but not limited to, the entirety of the mailing list(s), each and every social media site (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest, etc.) and anywhere else the defamatory material was disseminated.

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### XV. CONCLUSION

 Jennifer Abrams and The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

WHEREFORE, Jennifer Abrams and The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm respectfully pray that judgment be entered against Defendants, and each of them individually, as follows:

- General damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000 for each and every claim for relief;
- Compensatory damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000 for each and every claim for relief;
- Punitive damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000 for each and every claim for relief;
- 4. Treble damages for Defendants' RICO violations pursuant to NRS 207.470 in the form of general, compensatory, and/or punitive damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000;
- 5. All attorney's fees and costs that have and/or may be incurred by Jennifer V. Abrams and The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm in pursuing this action; and

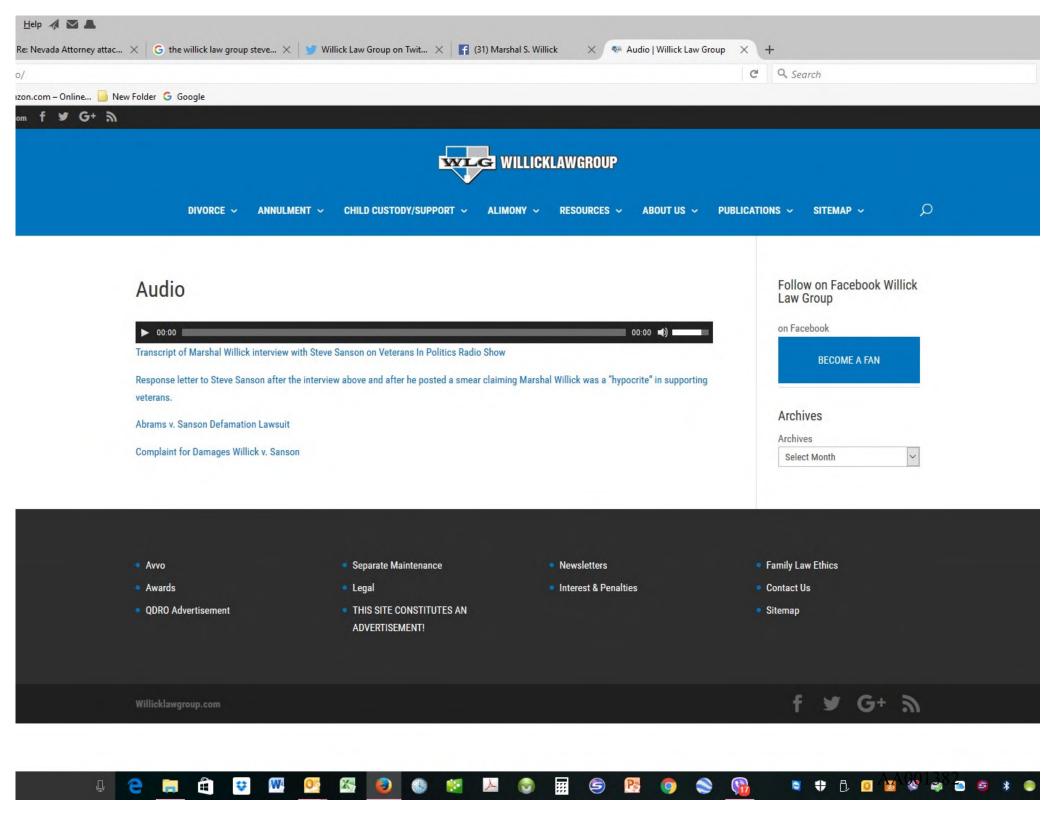
AA001378

6. For such other and further relief this Court may deem just and proper. DATED this 9th 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 1,1 

24

VERIFICATION 1 STATE OF NEVADA 2 SS: COUNTY OF CLARK 3 JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ., principal of THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW 4 FIRM first being duly sworn, deposes and says: 5 That her business is the Plaintiff in the above-entitled action; that she has 6 read the above and foregoing COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES and knows the 7 contents thereof and that the same is true of her own knowledge, except as to those 8 matters therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, she 9 believes them to be true. 10 FURTHER, AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT. 1.1 12 ABRAMS, ESQ. 13 14 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me 15 this 9th day of January, 2017, by Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

## **EXHIBIT 6**



#### To Steve Sanson:

You have re-posted the recording of our radio interview, <a href="http://www.willicklawgroup.com/audio/">http://www.willicklawgroup.com/audio/</a>, accompanied by the false assertion that it somehow indicates "hypocrisy" on my part as to serving the veteran community.

It is possible that you have a problem with definitions. To help you, "hypocrisy" is "the contrivance of a false appearance of virtue or goodness, while concealing real character or inclinations, especially with respect to moral beliefs; hence in general sense, dissimulation, pretense, sham." You need to gaze in a mirror.

For my part, I write textbooks, teach seminars to the U.S. Army JAG Corps and many other lawyers, and participate in Operation Stand-By and the Military Pro Bono Project (that means "for free" — as in doing actual good for actual service members without payment). I have done so for decades, and that work has saved untold thousands of military members (and their spouses) huge sums by ensuring their lawyers know how military retirement and benefits can be properly handled in family law cases. I helped create the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody Act, which protects members from wrongly losing custody of their kids.

The multiple posted testimonials by real live service members and retirees who I have served over several decades speak for themselves – there is a reason I was awarded the Military Pro Bono Project Outstanding Services Award.

But this isn't about me - it's about you.

You don't appear to have actually achieved . . . *anything* for any actual veterans. Instead, you have created a supposed "non-profit" that from all appearances finances your personal lifestyle, through which you solicit "donations" from politicians, lawyers, and others to generate largely false accusatory online smear campaigns against good people actually doing their jobs honorably. That leads to several observations.

First, defectors from your organization have blown the whistle – there is no legitimate "vetting" of candidates. You pick the "panels," spoon-feed questions to alter results (and get video footage to mis-use), and control all discussions on endorsements. Directly or indirectly, your recommendations are a pay-to-play exercise to "endorse" your personal selection of whoever hands you cash. The entire premise of your organization is a fraud.

There is no indication that your "non-profit" is actually anything other than a conduit between political donations and your private expenses, or that Form 990 or other tax filings have ever been made. A copy of this note should find its way to the IRS.

You have taken money as part of an unethical scheme to extort concessions in an ongoing case at threat of posting slander against opposing counsel – which you have then done. That is being reported to the State Bar, and will soon result in at least one lawsuit naming you as a co-defendant.

"Nepotism" is another word you use but apparently don't know; it is no such thing if Eric and Susan Johnson are both appointed or elected, any more than it is for brothers Mark and Michael Gibbons to each serve on Nevada's appellate courts. You should buy a dictionary.

More to the point, nothing in your postings as to judges Marquis, Harter, Elliott, Hughes, Ochoa, Johnson, etc., has any *trace* of "scandal" or "corruption" – words you really need to look up, both so you can use them correctly, and because your use of such terms to describe professionals doing their jobs appears to be "defamation *per se*," which can subject you to liability even without proof of actual damages. Any of the lawyers and judges you have wrongfully slimed could – and should – sue you and your various intertwined cover organizations.

You apparently claim to be "totally disabled" – while you simultaneously pose in ads with boxing gloves challenging police officers, selected veterans, and others to "mixed martial arts" fights. The only time you *don't* claim to be disabled is when you run for public office, when you claim that you are *just fine*.

You don't actually have a job — while you obviously are capable of applying yourself, your only legitimate income is from the thousands of dollars of disability pay you get every month — *tax free* — for *life*. Your various postings railing about what "the taxpayers" should demand don't include . . . you. And you have the gall to complain that judges can note the *existence* of all that tax-free income when you get divorced?

In the bigger picture, the oath you took when you put on the uniform was to defend the Constitution. And the "goals and values" page of Veterans In Politics International's website *claims* that the organization's purpose is "to protect and defend our Country and our United States Constitution," etc.

But when I appeared on your show, you openly admitted that you don't believe in the concept of equal protection under law – the guiding principle of the American legal system. Your co-host – with your apparent approval – added that "the 14th amendment shouldn't apply to veterans" at all, but instead they should have "special privilege."

That brings us back to "hypocrite" – see above – but even worse. Your position is revealed as the one warned of by George Orwell in *Animal Farm* – "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." The *last* person I knew of (other than you) to publicly reject the concept of equal protection under law was an avowed fascist. Public disavowal of the foundation of the Constitution could be taken as a betrayal of oath or even an expression of treason.

The reason I was invited onto your show was your unhappiness with my testimony before the legislature on topics about which I am an expert and you know very little. You have now decided to attack me on your mailing list, but apparently could not come up with anything to criticize, so you decided to publicize the long-past personal problems of one of my employees. If you have a beef with me, Steve, take it up with me; taking shots at third parties to try to hurt someone is the act of a craven coward.

But since you brought up the subject of what people were doing during the past decade or two, let's take a quick look at **you**. You declared bankruptcy (twice) to run out on the debts you promised to pay, and had a tax lien filed against you for failure to pay your taxes.

And that's just your *financial* life. You've also been arrested on weapons charges for running around the Strip drunk while pointing guns, and at the *exact same time* you recently ran for office claiming your number one qualification was as a "family man" you were seen leaving a bar with your arms wrapped tightly around a woman who is not your live-in companion. Go back a bit further and we see you being hauled into court for restraining orders for domestic violence against your ex-wife – twice.

Despite doing all that, you have the brazen shamelessness to post a personal bio claiming that your character is "beyond reproach" and that you have "honor, integrity, and veracity" – assertions that are either delusional or made in the belief that everyone who might read such tripe is an idiot.

This is a free country, sure — but anyone holding himself out as an arbiter of morality and posing as a public critic of others' personal behavior should not act like a sleazy extra out of "Harper Valley PTA" (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOZPBUu7Fro">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOZPBUu7Fro</a>). You want to talk about the past personal problems of the *employees* of those you disagree with? That is the very *definition* of "hypocrite" — not to mention slimy beyond words. Congratulations.

When you were recently put on notice that you were in violation of direct court orders to maintain sealed files as private, your response was to *repeat* the violation and make a foolishly irrelevant citation to "the freedom of information act." You really should get a legal advisor who knows something, Steve, because your recent antics will soon require you to have one.

I asked a few real-world veterans – guys who did decades of actual service to this country and have legitimate disabilities resulting from that lengthy service, about you and your phony "non-profit" organization. Their comments? "He's a complete fraud and a disgrace to the uniform he once wore." "He hasn't done a damned thing for me or for any other veterans. He's totally in it for himself and to fleece the system, the public, and all vets." Other remarks were similar.

So where does that leave you? A two-bit unemployed hustler taking taxpayer money instead of working for a living who hides behind flag-waving while doing nothing of any actual value to anyone but himself, abusing the honor of the veterans he claims to "serve." You hide a checkered past behind a facade of false virtue while shaking down candidates for cash and conspiring with like-minded cronies to do political hatchet jobs defaming good people of integrity who are working hard to perform their duties, represent their clients, and actually defend the Constitution. You are repugnant.

No elected official or candidate should ever again engage in the fraud which is appearance on your radio show or submit to supposed "review" by your sham organization. And you should be run out of town on a rail from Las Vegas, as you were apparently forced to flee California – the sooner the better. In the meantime, to the degree possible, you should be ignored.

Marshal S. Willick, Esq.

## **EXHIBIT 7**

COMP **Electronically Filed** JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ. 01/27/2017 10:03:49 AM Nevada State Bar Number: 7575 THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM 6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Phone: (702) 222-4021 CLERK OF THE COURT Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com Attorney for Plaintiffs 5 6 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 7 A-17-750171-C Case No.: MARSHALS, WILLICK and WILLICK 8 LAW GROUP, Department: XIX 9 Plaintiff, 10 vs. 11 Hearing Date: N/A STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA; Hearing Time: N/A CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; DON WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.; 13 ACTION IN TORT SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN STEELMON; and DOES I THROUGH X, 14 ARBITRATION EXEMPTION CLAIMED Defendant. 15 16 COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES 17 18 INTRODUCTION Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and Willick Law Group ("Plaintiffs") by 19 1. and through their attorney of record, Jennifer V. Abrams of The Abrams & Mayo 20 Law Firm bring this action for damages based upon, and to redress, Defendant's 21 Intentional Defamation of the character of the Plaintiffs through libelous writings 22 and speech, for Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, Negligent Infliction of 23 Emotional Distress, False Light, Business Disparagement, Harassment, Concert of Page 1 of 26

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Action, Civil Conspiracy and violations of RICO, all of which were perpetrated individually and in concert with others by defendants 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 (collectively "Defendants").

#### II. VENUE AND JURISDICTION

- Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 3. Jurisdiction is proper in Nevada State court as all alleged claims were transmitted to or performed in Nevada by the Defendants individually or in concert with others.

#### III. PARTIES

- Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 5. Plaintiff Marshal S. Willick is a natural person and an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada. He practices exclusively in the field of Domestic Relations and is A/V rated, a peer-reviewed and certified (and re-certified) Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and a Certified Specialist in Family Law.
- 6. Willick Law Group is a d.b.a. of Marshal S. Willick P.C., a duly formed professional corporation in the State of Nevada.

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III

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- 7. Upon information and belief, Steve W. Sanson is a natural person, the President of Veterans in Politics International, Inc., and the Treasurer and Director of Sanson Corporation.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Heidi J. Hanusa is a natural person, the Treasurer of Veterans in Politics International, Inc., and the President and Secretary of Sanson Corporation.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Christina Ortiz is a natural person and the Director of Veterans in Politics International, Inc.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Johnny Spicer is a natural person and Secretary of Veterans in Politics International, Inc.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Don Woolbright is a natural person and Secretary of Veterans in Politics International, Inc.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Veterans in Politics International, Inc. is a duly formed Domestic Non-Profit Corporation that claims its purpose is "[t]o educate, organize, and awaken our veterans and their families to select, support and intelligently vote for those candidates whom would help create a better world, to protect ourselves from our own government(s) in a culture of corruption, and to be the political voice for those in other groups who do not have one."
- 13. Upon information and belief, Sanson Corporation is a duly formed Domestic Corporation in the State of Nevada.
- 14. Upon information and belief, Karen Steelmon is a natural person and is the Registrant of the Domain veteransinpolitics.org.

Page 3 of 26

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15. Upon information and belief, additional persons and entities have been working with the above named Defendants either individually or in concert and have been added as Doe Defendants in this action until they are personally identified.

- and therefore allege, that each of the Defendants designated herein as 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 inclusive, are in some way legally responsible and liable for the events referred to herein, and directly or proximately caused the damages alleged herein.
- alleged herein, the Defendants, and each of them, including 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 inclusive, acted individually and/or through their officers, agents, employees and coconspirators, each of whom was acting within the purpose and scope of that agency, employment, and conspiracy, and these acts and omissions were known to, and authorized and ratified by, each of the other Defendants.

#### IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 18. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 19. On or about November 14, 2015, Mr. Willick appeared by invitation on a radio show hosted by Mr. Sanson, in his capacity of President of Veterans in Politics International, Inc., for the purpose of answering questions relating to

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

- 20. On or about December 25, 2016, Defendants published or caused to be published on the veterensinpolitics.com, a website purportedly owned and controlled by Defendants 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 inclusive, a post entitled "Dr. Robin L. Titus & Ron Q. Quilang to Appear on the Veterans in Politics video-talk show."
- 21. Included in this post, is a re-post of the "Interview" with the headline "Veterans in Politics defense [sic] Military Veterans Service Connected Disability Benefits" (hereinafter "the Defense post"). This re-post contains a link that redirects to a Soundcloud.com page with audio of the interview. This re-post also contains a link to a Review-Journal article regarding Richard Crane, an employee of the Willick Law Group (hereinafter "the Article").
- 22. Within the "Defense post," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including that:
  - a. "This is the type of hypocrisy we have in our community. People that claim to be for veterans but yet they screw us for profit and power."
- 23. On or about December 31, 2016, Mr. Sanson sent an email blast with the "Interview" and the "Article" (hereinafter "the E-mail blast").

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III

- 24. Within the "E-mail blast," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements.
- 25. The "Defense" post and the "E-mail blast" were published, republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, via email across multiple states, and via numerous social media sites including Pinterest, Google+, Twitter, and the following Facebook pages:
  - a. steve.sanson1
  - b. steve.sanson.3
  - c. veteransinpolitics
  - d. veteransinpoliticsinternational
  - e. eye.on.nevada.politics
  - f. steve.w.sanson
    - Veterans-In-Politics-International-Endorsement-for-the-State-of-Nevada
  - h. Veterans in Politics: groups/OperationNeverForget
  - i. Nevada-Veterans-In-Politics
- 26. On or about January 12, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be published on veterensinpolitics.com, a website purportedly owned and controlled by Defendants 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 inclusive, a post entitled "Mark Amodei & Debra March to appear on the Veterans In Politics video-talk show."

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

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

- 28. Within the "Virginia post," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including that:
  - a. "Attorney Marshall [sic] and his pal convicted of sexually [sic] coercion [sic] of a minor."
  - b. "Richard Crane was found guilty of defaming a law student."
  - c. The "Virginia post" was accompanied by pages of a legal decision by a Virginia judge stating on its face that using the word "guilty" to describe a judgment in a civil case for damages constitutes defamation per se.
- 29. The "Virginia post" was published, republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, via email across multiple states, and via numerous social media sites including Pinterest, Google+, Twitter, and the following Facebook pages:
  - a. steve.sansoni

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.

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- veteransinpolitics
- eye.on.nevada.politics
- steve.w.sanson
- Veterans in Politics: groups/OperationNeverForget
- Nevada-Veterans-In-Politics h.
- On or about January 14, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be 30. published on the Veterans in Politics International Facebook page, a Facebook page purportedly controlled by Defendants 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 inclusive, a post containing eight (8) photographs (hereinafter "VIPI Facebook post").
- Within the "VIPI Facebook post," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and 31. his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including that:
  - "Would you have a Family Attorney handle your child custody case if you knew a sex offender works in the same office? Welcome to The [sic] Willick Law Group."
- 32. On or about January 14, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be published on the Veterans in Politics Facebook page, a Facebook page purportedly controlled by Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny

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23 24 Spicer, Don Woolbright, Veterans in Politics International, Inc., Sanson Corporation, Karen Steelmon, and Does I through X inclusive, a post entitled "Nevada Attorney Marshall [sic] Willick gets the Nevada Supreme Court Decision" to which he attached 12 photos of the Leventhal v. Lobello decision (hereinafter "VIP Facebook post #1").3

- 33. Within the "VIP Facebook post #1," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including that:
  - a. "From looking at all these papers It's [sic] obvious that Willick scammed his client and later scammed the court by misrepresenting that he was entitled to recover property under his lien and reduce it to judgement [sic]."
  - b. "He did not recover anything. The property was distributed in the Decree of Divorce."
  - c. "Willick tried to get his client to start getting retirement benefits faster.
    It was not with [sic] 100,000 [sic] in legal bills."
  - d. "Then he pressured his client into allowing him to continue with the appeal."
- 34. On or about January 14, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be published on the Veterans in Politics Facebook page, a Facebook page purportedly controlled by Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

- 35. Within the VIP Facebook post #2, Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including that:
  - a. "Attorney Marshall [sic] Willick loses his appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court."
- 36. The defamatory statements by Defendants were intended to harm Plaintiffs' reputation and livelihood, to harass, and to embarrass Plaintiffs.
- 37. The defamatory statements by Defendants have caused numerous negative comments to be directed against Plaintiffs.4
- 38. Defendants have expressed the intention to continue attempts to harm Plaintiff reputation and business to whatever degree they are able to achieve.
- 39. On January 24, 2017, Defendants posted online an offer to pay "up to \$10,000 for verifiable information on Nevada Family Court Attorney Marshal Willick."

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<sup>4</sup> For example, a comment to the "Virginia post" states "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.

Page 11 of 26

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49. Publication of some or all of the referenced false and defamatory statements caused special harm in the form of 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.

# VI. SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF (INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS)

- 50. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 51. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or/employees, either individually, or in concert with others, intentionally and deliberately inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by defaming them to many people, including but not limited to the following: several of Mr. Willick's friends, coworkers, colleagues, clients, and an unknown number of persons that were subjected to the defamatory comments on the internet.
- 52. As a result of Defendants' extreme and outrageous conduct, Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group was, is, and, with a high degree of likelihood, will continue to be emotionally distressed due to the defamation.
- 53. As a result of Defendants' extreme and outrageous conduct, Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group have suffered and will continue to suffer mental pain and anguish, and unjustifiable emotional trauma.

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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.

## VII. THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS)

- 54. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 55. To whatever extent the infliction of emotional distress asserted in the preceding cause of action was not deliberate, it was a result of the reckless and wanton actions of the Defendants, either individually, or in concert with others.

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.

# VIII. FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (FALSE LIGHT)

- 56. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 57. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or employees, either individually, or in concert with others, intentionally made and published false statements about Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group.
- 58. The statements made by the Defendants against Mr. Willick were made with the specific intent to cause harm to Plaintiffs and their pecuniary interests,

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

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

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.

# IX. FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (BUSINESS DISPARAGEMENT)

- 60. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 61. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or employees, either individually, or in concert with others, intentionally made false and disparaging statements about Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group and disparaged Mr. Willick's business, the Willick Law Group.
- 62. The referenced statements and actions were specifically directed towards the quality of Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group's services.
- 63. The statements and actions were so extreme and outrageous as to affect the ability of Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group to conduct business.
- 64. The Defendants intended, in publishing the false and defamatory statements, to cause harm to Plaintiffs and its pecuniary interests, and/or the

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

65. The false and defamatory statements by the Defendants 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.

#### X. SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (CONCERT OF ACTION)

- 66. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 67. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or employees in concert with one another, based upon an explicit or tacit agreement, intentionally committed a tort against Mr. Willick.
- 68. Defendants' concert of action 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.

Page 15 of 26

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Page 16 of 26

# 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.

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

- a. Criminal contempt (NRS 199.340(7), publication of a false or grossly inaccurate report of court proceedings).
- b. Challenges to fight (NRS 200.450).
- c. Furnishing libelous information (NRS 200.550).
- d. Harassment (NRS 200.571).
- e. Multiple transactions involving fraud or deceit in the course of an enterprise (NRS 205.377).
- f. Taking property from another under circumstances not amounting to robbery. (NRS 207.360(9)).
- g. Extortion of "contributions" by implied threat of the mounting of similar defamation campaigns against candidates and officials.
- 75. Defendants comprise a criminal syndicate: Any combination of persons, so structured that the organization will continue its operation even if individual members enter or leave the organization, which engages in or has the purpose of engaging in racketeering activity. Here, Veterans in Politics International, Inc., Nevada Veterans in Politics, and Veterans in Politics are organizations that has members—headed by Defendants Steve Sanson, Heidi Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny Spicer, and Don Woolbright—that do come and go and the organization continues on. These organizations and their principals have conspired to engage in and have engaged in racketeering activity.
- 76. This group also meets the statutory definition—NRS 207.380—as an enterprise:

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

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

- 77. Sanson Corporation is also a separate legal entity and is a registered Nevada Corporation.
- 78. Even if not all Defendants are members of Veterans in Politics International, Inc., Nevada Veterans in Politics, Veterans in Politics, and Sanson Corporation, they meet the "association or other group of persons associated in fact" requirements under the statue as an enterprise. The statute explicitly includes both licit and illicit enterprises.
- 79. Racketeering is the engaging in at least two crimes related to racketeering 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, if at least one of the incidents occurred after July 1, 1983, and the last of the incidents occurred within 5 years after a prior commission of a crime related to racketeering.
- 80. Defendants published a false or grossly inaccurate report of court proceedings on numerous occasions, including, but not limited to, the "Virginia post," "VIP Facebook Post #1," and "VIP Facebook Post #2." (NRS 199.340(7)).

<sup>5</sup> Nevada Veterans in Politics and Veterans in Politics operate numerous social media sites where the defamation continues.

- 81. Defendants 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 inclusive, gave or sent a challenge in writing to fight Richard Carreon and others. (NRS 200.450).
- 82. Defendants willfully stated, delivered or transmitted to a manager, editor, publisher, reporter or other employee of a publisher of any newspaper, magazine, publication, periodical or serial statements concerning Plaintiffs which, if published therein, would be a libel. (NRS 200.550).
- 83. Defendants, without lawful authority, knowingly threatened to substantially harm the health or safety of Plaintiff and, by words and conduct placed Plaintiffs in reasonable fear that the threat would be carried out. (NRS 200.571).
- 84. Defendants, in the course of their enterprise, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, engaged in an act, practice or course of business or employed a device, scheme or artifice which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person by means of a false representation or omission of a material fact that Defendants know to be false or omitted, Defendants intend for others to rely on, and results in a loss to those who relied on the false representation or omission in at least two transactions 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 within 4 years and in which the aggregate loss or intended loss is more than \$650. (NRS 205.377).
- 85. Defendants posted false and defamatory material no less than 50 times in 10 separate defamatory campaigns against Plaintiffs. The total value of time expended by Marshal S. Willick, and the Willick Law Group staff in responding to

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

- 86. It was the intent of the Defendants to cause harm to Plaintiffs and the aggregate costs far exceed the \$650 threshold. Each act which violates subsection one constitutes a separate offense and a person who violates subsection one is guilty of a category B felony.
- 87. Additionally, NRS 205.0832 defines the actions which constitute theft as including that which:

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

The statute goes on to define the theft as a person or entity that "Takes, destroys, conceals or disposes of property in which another person has a security interest, with intent to defraud that person." Here, as Abraham Lincoln famously pointed out 150 years ago, time is a lawyer's stock in trade. Defendants—with malice—stole valuable time from Mr. Willick. Also, the theft of Mr. Willick's and Willick Law Group's "good 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 INFRINGMENT)

- 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.

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

- 94. Plaintiffs are entitled to attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to 17U.S.C. § 505 and otherwise according to law.
- 95. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing acts and conduct, Plaintiffs have sustained and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Upon information and belief, Plaintiffs believe that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendants will continue to infringe Plaintiffs' rights in the infringed works. Plaintiffs are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendants' continuing infringing conduct.

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

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

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

#### XIV. TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (INJUNCTION)

- 96. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 97. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or employees, either individually, or in concert with others, engaged in acts that were so outrageous that injunctive relief is necessary to effectuate justice.

#### WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request the following injunctive relief:

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

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

- c. That all innuendo of illegal, immoral, or unethical conduct that has already been attributed by Defendants to Mr. Willick, must never be repeated by any named Defendant or any member of any of the named organizations, with generalities toward lawyers in general to constitute a violation of the prohibition.
- d. That a full retraction and apology be authored by Defendants Steve W. Sanson, approved by the Court, and disseminated everywhere the defamation occurred, including, but not limited to, the entirety of the mailing list(s), each and every social media site (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest, LinkedIn, etc.) and anywhere else the defamatory material was disseminated.

## XV.

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

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

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

Page 24 of 26

- 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 27" day of January, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

JENNÍFÉR V. ABRÁMS, ESQ.

Nevada State Bar Number: 7575 6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100 Las Yegas, Nevada 89118

Phone: (702) 222-4021

Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs

1 VERIFICATION STATE OF NEVADA 2 SS: COUNTY OF CLARK 3 MARSHAL S. WILLICK, ESQ., principal of WILLICK LAW GROUP first being 4 duly sworn, deposes and says: 5 That himself and his business are the Plaintiffs in the above-entitled action; 6 that he has read the above and foregoing Complaint for Damages and knows the contents thereof and that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to those 8 matters therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, he believes 9 them to be true. 10 11 12 MARSHALS. WILLICK, ESQ. 13 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me this 21th day of January, 2017. 14 15 16 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Page 26 of 26

## **EXHIBIT 8**

#### **Anat Levy**

From: Steve Sanson < vipipresident@cs.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:56 PM

To:alevy96@aol.comCc:devildog1285@cs.com

**Subject:** Re: IP Counter Notification Form #386426505041326

#### **Constant Contact**

Dear Mr. Sanson,

Due to a number of legal complaints that Constant Contact has received regarding your account, we must suspend services. We have received multiple allegations of copyright and trademark infringement which are a violation of our terms and conditions. Per our Terms and Conditions we reserve the right to terminate your services at any time, please see "section 8. Termination."

I've provided a copy of our terms and conditions here for your reference:

https://www.constantcontact.com/legal/terms

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

--

Megen MacKenzie
Legal Compliance Coordinator
Constant Contact
3675 Precision Dr,
Loveland, CO 80538
Email: mmackenzie@constantcontact.com

Phone: (970) 203-7345 Fax: (781) 652-5130

Web: www.constantcontact.com

#### **Constant Contact**

Hello Steve,

Our legal department generally does not forward on any legal documents we receive from attorneys because we do not want to get involved in legal disputes. However, I can send you the attorney's contact information and you can request they send you the documents.

Additionally, we also received a formal cease and desist letter on the account this week from Willick Law Group.

The attorneys who have contacted us are:

Carlos A. Morales, Esq. Willick Law Group

3591 E. Bonanza Road, Ste. 200 Las Vegas, NV 89110-2101 ph. 702/438-4100 x 128 fax 702/438-5311

e-mail: Carlos@willicklawgroup.com main website: www.willicklawgroup.com QDRO website: www.qdromasters.com

Marshal S. Willick, Esq. 3591 E. Bonanza Road, Ste. 200 Las Vegas, NV 89110-2101

Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers

Certified Specialist in Family Law, Nevada Board of Legal Specialization & NBTA

ph. 702/438-4100 x 103 fax 702/438-5311

e-mail: marshal@willicklawgroup.com

main website www.willicklawgroup.com

QDRO website: www.qdromasters.com

Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.
Board Certified Family Law Specialist
Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM
6252 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Tel. (702) 202 4024

Tel: (702) 222-4021 Fax: (702) 248-9750

www.TheAbramsLawFirm.com

If you have any questions, please contact Patty Andrews, I believe you spoke with her this past week regarding this account. Her direct line is 781-482-7466.

Thank you,

Megen

--

Megen MacKenzie Legal Compliance Coordinator Constant Contact 3675 Precision Dr, Loveland, CO 80538

Email: mmackenzie@constantcontact.com

Phone: (970) 203-7345 Fax: (781) 652-5130

Web: www.constantcontact.com

#### Facebook:

Hello,

We've removed or disabled access to the following content that you posted on Facebook because we received a notice from a third party that the content infringes their copyright(s):

"Nevada Attorney attacks a Clark County Family Court Judge in Open Court" http://conta.cc/2dKh34w

If you believe that this content should not have been removed from Facebook, you can contact the complaining party

directly to resolve your issue:

Report #: 307875176275756

Rights Owner: Jennifer Abrams / The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

Email: jabrams@theabramslawfirm.com

Copyrighted Work: Other

If an agreement is reached to restore the reported content, please have the complaining party email us with their consent and include the report number.

Facebook complies with the notice and takedown procedures defined in section 512(c) of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA"). If you believe that this content was removed as a result of mistake or misidentification, you can submit a DMCA counter-notification by filling out our automated form at http://www.facebook.com/legal/copyright.php?howto appeal&parent report id=307875176275756.

We strongly encourage you to review the content you have posted to Facebook to make sure that you have not posted any other infringing content, as it is our policy to terminate the accounts of repeat infringers when appropriate.

For more information about intellectual property, please visit our Help Center:

https://www.facebook.com/help/370657876338359/

Thanks,

The Facebook Team

#### Facebook:

Hi Steve,

The Facebook Team received a report from you. For reference, your complaint number is: #620138334841917.

Please note that this channel is only for reports of alleged infringements or violations of your legal rights, such as copyright or trademark. If you filed that type of report, no further action is necessary. However, if you contacted us through this channel about another matter, you might not receive a response.

If you're not confident that your issue concerns intellectual property rights, please consult the Intellectual Property section of our Help Center for additional information:

IP Help Center: https://www.facebook.com/help/intellectual property/

Note that we routinely provide the contact information included in reports about alleged infringements/violations of legal rights, including email address, to the user that posted the content being reported.

For help with matters other than infringement/violation of your legal rights, the links below may be helpful:

- Hacked or phished accounts: https://www.facebook.com/help/security
- Fake/Impostor accounts (timelines): https://www.facebook.com/help/174210519303259/
- Abuse (including spam, hate speech and harassment): https://www.facebook.com/help/263149623790594/
- Pages (including admin issues): https://www.facebook.com/help/pages/
- Unauthorized photos or videos: https://www.facebook.com/help/428478523862899
- Login issues: https://www.facebook.com/help/login
- Help for users who have been disabled or blocked: https://www.facebook.com/help/warnings

If the links above do not contain the information you're looking for, you may want to search the Help Center for more assistance: https://www.facebook.com/help/

As a reminder, if your submission contains a report of alleged infringement/violation of your legal rights, no further action is necessary. We will look into your matter shortly.

Thanks for contacting Facebook,

The Facebook Team

Full Name: Steve Sanson

Address: 2620 Regatta Drive Suit 102

Las Vegas, Nv 89128 Telephone: 7022838088 Email: devildog1285@cs.com

#### Facebook:

Hello,

We've removed or disabled access to the following content that you posted on Facebook because we received a notice from a third party that the content infringes their copyright(s):

"Have you seen our latest news?" http://conta.cc/2dXY3Qb

If you believe that this content should not have been removed from Facebook, you can contact the complaining party directly to resolve your issue:

Report #: 307875176275756

Rights Owner: Jennifer Abrams / The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

Email: jabrams@theabramslawfirm.com

Copyrighted Work: Other

If an agreement is reached to restore the reported content, please have the complaining party email us with their consent and include the report number.

Facebook complies with the notice and takedown procedures defined in section 512(c) of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA"). If you believe that this content was removed as a result of mistake or misidentification, you can submit a DMCA counter-notification by filling out our automated form at http://www.facebook.com/legal/copyright.php?howto appeal&parent report id=307875176275756.

We strongly encourage you to review the content you have posted to Facebook to make sure that you have not posted any other infringing content, as it is our policy to terminate the accounts of repeat infringers when appropriate.

For more information about intellectual property, please visit our Help Center:

https://www.facebook.com/help/370657876338359/

Thanks,

Youtube:

The Facebook Team

 Original	messa	age	

From: YouTube Support Team <youtube-disputes+P42GIS7UJZ5WEVNXFQ4CYDMURU@google.com>

Date: 1/6/17 20:29 (GMT-08:00) To: stevewsanson1985@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Case Subject

Dear Steve Sanson,

This is to notify you that we have received a privacy complaint from an individual regarding your content:

\_\_\_\_\_

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdMg5wI70Yg

We would like to give you an opportunity to remove or edit the private information within the content reported. You have 48 hours to take action on the complaint. If you remove the alleged violation from the site within the 48 hours, the complaint filed will then be closed. If the potential privacy violation remains on the site after 48 hours, the complaint will be reviewed by the YouTube Team and may be removed pursuant to our Privacy Guidelines.

Alleged violations commonly occur within the video content. YouTube offers a Custom Blurring tool, which allows you to blur anything in your video, including individuals or information. For more information on this blurring feature, visit the Creator Blog and Help Center. Alleged violations may also occur in the title, description or tags of your video. YouTube offers metadata editing tools which you can access by going to My Videos and clicking the Edit button on the reported video. Making a video private is not an appropriate method of editing, as the status can be changed from private to public at any time. Because they can be turned off at any time, annotations are also not considered an acceptable solution.

We're committed to protecting our users and hope you understand the importance of respecting others' privacy. When uploading videos in the future, please remember not to post someone else's image or personal information without their consent. Personal information includes, but is not limited to, Social Security number, National Identification number, bank account number or contact information (e.g. home address, email address). For more information, please review our Privacy Guidelines.

Steve Sanson
President Veterans In Politics International
PO Box 28211
Las Vegas, NV 89126
702 283 8088
www.veteransinpolitics.org

----Original Message-----

From: Anat Levy <alevy96@aol.com>
To: 'Steve Sanson' <vipipresident@cs.com>

Sent: Tue, Feb 7, 2017 6:29 pm

Subject: FW: IP Counter Notification Form #386426505041326

Steve, can you forward to me all of the original notifications from Facebook, Constant Contact, etc? I have the counter-notifications, but can't find the original notices that they sent you. I know you sent them to me, but can you resend them please?

From: vipipresident@cs.com [mailto:vipipresident@cs.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 4:31 PM

To: Anat Levy

Subject: Fw: IP Counter Notification Form #386426505041326

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

----- Original message-----

From: Facebook

Date: Tue, Jan 24, 2017 16:17

#### To: vipipresident@cs.com;

#### Subject:IP Counter Notification Form #386426505041326

Hi, Thanks for contacting Facebook. We have received your Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA") counter-notification. Based on the information you've provided, we will restore or cease disabling access to the content at issue within 14 business days from now, unless we receive notice that the reporting party has filed an action seeking a court order to restrain you from engaging in infringing activity on Facebook related to that content. Thanks, Daryl Intellectual Property Operations > On Mon Jan 23, 2017 00:15:08, Steve Sanson wrote:>To answer your question; I wrote all the articles that we posted, the original versions came from my Constant Constant page. You can verify this with Constant Contact and its also on our website at www.VeteransInPolitics.org. >As far as the videos are concerned: Rule 5.02 only makes a hearing private, but does not prohibit anything else. The Order that was served does not apply because it was based on "Stipulation of the Parties." WE are not a party to the case. The fact the case was sealed after the fact is prospective not retrospective and cannot change what has already happened. Next, First Amendment and good faith participation in public processes are absolutely immune from suit. Then there is the lawsuit itself - it violates NRS Chapter 1 which requires all actions involving the same parties in Family Court be heard by the same judge - meaning there is no subject matter jurisdiction in the District Court. This further supported by the fact it involves an order by Judge Elliot who is the only one who can enforce that order or issue sanctions - but again - that order only pertains to the parties that engaged in the stipulation. I see a counter for First Amendment retaliation and violation of immunity and then removal to US District Court on federal question involving violation of rights. > Please let me know.. We are going to file a State Bar Complaint against this attorney for lying to FaceBook under penalty of perjury.> >Steve Sanson>President Veterans In Politics International>PO Box 28211>Las Vegas, NV 89126>702 283 8088>www.veteransinpolitics.org > > -----Original Message---->From: Facebook >To: vipipresident >Sent: Sun, Jan 22, 2017 10:32 pm>Subject: IP Counter Notification Form #386426505041326>Hi,>Thanks for contacting Facebook. In order to process your counternotification, we need more information from you. Please provide us with:>- an explanation of why you believe the content should be restored. >We won't be able to process your counter-notification without this information. Please note that all information you provide may be sent to the original reporter.>Thanks,>Daryl>Intellectual Property Operations>>On Fri Jan 20, 2017 22:41:34, Steve Sanson wrote:>>Full Name : Steve Sanson>>Address: PO Box 28211>>Las Vegas, Nv 89126>>Telephone: 7022838088>>Email: vipipresident@cs.com>>>

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am over the age of 18 and am not a party to the within action.

On the date indicated below, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the document

entitled <u>SPECIAL APPEARANCE</u> -- OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR OSC RE:

**CONTEMPT** on the below listed recipients by E-mailing a copy of the document to the below persons at their indicated addresses. Such Email is in lieu of service by U.S. Postal Service.

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

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Louis Schneider, Esq. Law Offices of Louis C. Schneider, LLC 430 S. Seventh Street., Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 435-2121 lcslaw@yahoo.com

Maggic McLetchie, Esq. McLetchie Shell 702 E. Bridger Ave., Ste. 520 Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 728-5300 Maggie@nvlitigation.com

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

Executed this 6th day of March , 2017, in Las Vcgas, NV

Anat Levy

DECLARATION OF STEVE SANSON IN SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR OSC RE: CONTEMPT

AA001421

1	OPPC								
2	JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ. Nevada State Bar Number: 7575								
	Nevada State Bar Number: 7575 THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM								
3	6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100								
4	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118   Phone: (702) 222-4021								
5	Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com Attorney for Plaintiffs								
6	DISTRICT	CC	HIRT						
7	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA								
8	MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW GROUP,	<sup>7</sup> )	Case No.:	A-17-750171-C					
9		ĺ	Department:	XIX					
10	Plaintiff,	)							
	vs.	)							
11	STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA; CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER;	)	Hearing date:	March 14, 2017					
12	DON WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN	)	Hearing time:	9:00 a.m.					
13	POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.; SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN	)							
14	STEELMON; and DOES I THROUGH X,	)							
15	Defendant.	)							
16		_′							
17	OPPOSIT								
18	ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO NRS 41.650 et. seq.; AND								
19	COUNTERMOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS								
20	COME NOW the Plaintiffs, MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW								
21	GROUP, by and through their attorney of record, Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq., of The								
22	Abrams & Mayo Law Firm, and hereby submit their <i>Opposition</i> to Defendants								
23	STEVE W. SANSON and VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.'s Anti-								
24									

SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs.

This Opposition and Countermotion is made and based upon the attached Points and Authorities, the Affidavit attached hereto, all papers and pleadings on file herein, and any oral argument adduced at the hearing of this matter.

DATED Tuesday, March 07, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

/s/ Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq. 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

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Steve Sanson and Veterans In Politics International, Inc. ("the VIPI Defendants") operate an extortion racket. The racket appears to be controlled by Sanson and run through an organization purporting to be a 501(c)(3) "non-profit corporation" which disseminates mass defamatory email blasts, maintains a website to house defamatory material, and re-publishes and posts defamatory material to

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violations.

It appears that the VIPI and other Defendants engage in substantial violations of the laws 23 pertaining to such entities by failing to submit all required filings (such as tax returns), failing to use a substantial portion of the funds for a specific public purpose, allowing a single member to exercise undue control, and violating the provisions of the Charitable Solicitation Act, amongst other

<sup>24</sup> 

numerous Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google Plus, and other social media accounts.

Despite their façade of "exposing corruption," the real purpose of the bogus organization is corruption – they make money by launching defamatory "smear campaigns." Such campaigns have been launched against judicial and political candidates and in this case, against private citizens. The VIPI defendants also solicit complaints from angry and often misguided persons without much, if any, inquiry as to the truth or accuracy of the allegations made. To be clear, the VIPI defendants do not strive to actually "expose corruption" as they falsely allege. For example, the undersigned was not able to find any postings or emails by the VIPI Defendants 'exposing' any actual corruption in the judiciary (e.g., former Judge Steven Jones), in the school district (e.g., Kevin Childs), or otherwise, likely because there was no money in it for them to do so.

And the VIPI Defendants *openly admit* that they engage in such activity - in at least three January 24, 2017 Facebook posts seeking contributions in violation of Nevada's Charitable Solicitation Act, the VIPI Defendants admitted that "when people need[] someone to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation."<sup>2</sup>

The lawsuits of which they complain<sup>3</sup> resulted directly from such illicit activities by the VIPI Defendants. In or around September 2016, the VIPI Defendants were hired by Louis Schneider, Esq. to intimidate witnesses and a family court judge with threatened "smear campaigns" in an effort to alter the outcome of a pending sanctions motion filed against Schneider in a divorce case.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Exhibit 1.

<sup>3</sup> Abrams v. Schneider, et. al., and Willick v. Sanson, et. al.

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In the underlying divorce case, Willick's fiancée, Jennifer Abrams, filed a sanctions motion against Schneider personally for his numerous and substantial violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, amongst other things. Immediately after being served with the sanctions motion, Schneider wrote in an email: "If your firm does not withdraw that motion [referring to the sanctions motion filed against Schneider], I will oppose it **and take additional action beyond the opposition.**" [Emphasis added].

Abrams did not withdraw the sanctions motion against Schneider.<sup>4</sup> As threatened, Schneider took "action beyond the opposition" by hiring<sup>5</sup> the VIPI and other Defendants to launch a series of false, misleading, and defamatory "smear campaigns" against Abrams. Those unlawful activities led to the filing of the *Abrams v. Schneider*, et al. lawsuit (Case Number A-17-749318-C).

Years earlier -- on *February 11, 2015*, Assembly Bill 140 was introduced. Marshal Willick testified against portions of the bill and Steve Sanson testified in favor of the bill. It was ultimately passed in a significantly altered form on or about *May 17, 2015* and *was signed by the Governor on or about May 25, 2015*. The legislative session ended days later.

Approximately *six months* later, Attorney Willick appeared on the VIPI radio show to discuss AB 140. The VIPI Defendants did not post any articles or material other than the interview itself which, very shortly thereafter, was no longer

<sup>4</sup> The outcome of that motion and the request for attorney fees has been briefed and is still pending decision of the Hon. Jennifer Elliott.

In an internet radio interview with "NewsMax/Battlefield Nevada," Steve Sanson admitted receiving payment from Louis Schneider, and then claimed it was for "advertising."

accessible from their website.<sup>6</sup> For approximately eighteen months after the Governor signed AB 140 into law, there was nothing (other than the interview which was deleted) disseminated by the VIPI defendants on the issue. No further legislation or other issue was or is pending.

On December 25, 2016, over a year and a half after AB 140 had any significance to the public or was given any attention by the VIPI defendants, the VIPI defendants posted the "hypocrisy" article defaming Plaintiffs by calling Marshal Willick a "hypocrite" who "screw[s veterans] for profit and power." "Coincidentally," this defamatory material was disseminated shortly after the VIPI defendants were paid by Louis Schneider to disseminate "smear campaigns" against Willick's fiancée, and almost immediately after the VIPI defendants learned of the relationship between Willick and Abrams. Those unlawful activities, and others, led to the filing of **this** lawsuit, *Willick v. Sanson, et al.*?

While the timing and focus of the "hypocrisy" article evidences the VIPI Defendants' actual malice against Plaintiffs, the "sexually coercion" article and the VIPI Defendants' comments regarding that article leave no doubt that the purpose of the publications were to unlawfully defame Plaintiffs. After the VIPI Defendants falsely alleged that Marshal Willick and his pal were "convicted of sexually (sic) coercion of a minor child" and falsely alleged that Marshal Willick was found "guilty"

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Contrary to the assertions in the Motion, there have been many more than five defamatory statements made by the VIPI Defendants against Plaintiffs, including a one-hour radio show on February 25, 2017 dedicated to defaming Plaintiffs. To this day, the "smear campaign" continues.

screaming, which did not make the organization look good.

Apparently this is because the "interview" contains a great deal of Sanson's foul-mouthed

of defaming a law student, a comment was posted by Lee Pudemonhuchin Gilford, who wrote, in relevant part:

And this is how the defamation lawsuits begin. Nothing you shared indicates that Willick did anything but employ a nasty bastard. You have intentionally indicated that he was convicted.9 I offer you a couple of choices to correct this, because as someone claiming to represent veterans, I would appreciate it at least done in a legal way.

- A) provide evidence that Willick was convicted.
- B) change your caption

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C) take this crap to your personal page.

You stand before political figures in this state, indicating that you represent veterans (me) here in Las Vegas. You therefore have an obligation to take our representation responsibly. Getting in to pissing wars<sup>10</sup> and getting sued for libel does nothing but discredit the image of veterans, that some of us pride ourselves in maintaining

The VIPI defendants response was nothing short of extreme and outrageous. The VIPI Defendants responded:

Look Lee you are a Marine correct.. Everything we put out is true.. If you don't believe that don't engage in our page. We been doing this for over a decade.. Maybe you should do your own reserach (sic) before you engage in another conversation with our group. Semper Fi<sup>11</sup>

The blatantly false representation that "[e]verything we put out is true" and "[m]aybe you should do your own reserach (sic)," *implies that there is proof* that Marshal Willick was convicted of sexual coercion of a minor child and implies that there is proof that Willick was found "guilty" (implying criminal conduct) of defamation. These statements are not true, they are not substantially true, and they are not even remotely true. They are not "opinions," as they blatantly assert false facts. These knowingly false and malicious statements

Somewhat ironically, the same posting by Defendants includes an opinion by a West Virginia judge that using the word "guilty" necessarily implies conviction of a crime and therefore is defamatory per se. Having posted that opinion, Defendants cannot claim to be ignorant of it.

Mr. Gilford is describing "actual malice."

Mr. Gilford is describing personal animus and the lack of any perceived "public interest."

See Exhibit 2.

were not made within any legal proceedings and are therefore not privileged. These are blatantly false, malicious, and highly defamatory false statements of fact are **not** protected speech. <sup>12</sup> They are defamation *per se*. None of that is "hyperbole" – they are outright lies. <sup>13</sup>

And the VIPI Defendants admit that the posting was defamatory but seek cover for their actions by the posting of a "correction." First, the "correction" is itself defamatory but worse, the VIPI Defendants re-posted the original admittedly defamatory article *after* the posting of the "correction" *and* each posting of the admittedly defamatory version of the article is still viewable online. In other words, the "correction" did not replace the admittedly defamatory posts – they remain visible independent of any "correction."

As expressed in the old adage "my right to swing my fist ends where your nose begins," the VIPI Defendants' right to "free speech" ended when they published blatantly false, misleading, and defamatory material against the Plaintiffs in this action.<sup>14</sup>

Similar malicious disregard for the truth by the VIPI Defendants is evident in the Abrams v. Schneider, et. al. matter wherein the VIPI Defendants falsely alleged, repeatedly, that Abrams' client "lied about his finances." This false statement of fact (amongst many others) were made by the VIPI Defendants repeatedly even though VIPI posted the video of Judge Elliott admitting that she was mistaken and that Abrams' client was forthright in his financial disclosure and even though Judge Elliott sent an email to the VIPI Defendants directly notifying them that she was mistaken and that Abrams' client correctly reported his income. The VIPI Defendants cannot claim that they didn't receive Judge Elliott's email as they responded to it yet, they continued to post the same false and defamatory factual allegation repeatedly.

Contrary to the assertions made (at 15), the half-hearted "clarification" was not blasted out by multiple "paid placements" to the many tens of thousands of viewers that the original false claims were sent, making it a worthless exercise.

The VIPI Defendants claim that Plaintiffs' sent "take down notices" to YouTube and other social media websites in an effort to "stifle speech." For example, it was the litigant in the underlying divorce case who requested removal of his private divorce proceedings from YouTube and Vimeo. Because those postings by the VIPI Defendants violated both YouTube and Vimeo's policies, they were removed. The closing of the

### II. NEVADA'S ANTI-SLAPP STATUTES

"A SLAPP [strategic lawsuit against public participation] lawsuit is characterized as a meritless suit filed primarily to chill the defendant's exercise of First Amendment Rights."15 The hallmark of a SLAPP lawsuit is that it is filed to obtain a financial advantage over one's adversary by increasing litigation costs until the adversary's case is weakened or abandoned."16 To protect citizens' rights to make good faith communications in petitioning the government, the Legislature passed Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statutes, following the California model.<sup>17</sup> The statutes protect "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," while leaving the door open for legitimate defamation claims. In other words, while Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute protects First Amendment freedom of speech; it does **not** protect defamatory speech.<sup>18</sup>

#### SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS STANDARD III.

In Nevada, the district courts treat an Anti-SLAPP motion as a motion for summary judgment. The Nevada Supreme Court has set forth the requirements for summary judgment in Nevada:

Summary judgment is proper if the pleadings and all other evidence on file demonstrate that no genuine issue of material fact exists and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. When deciding a summary judgment motion, all evidence and any reasonable inferences derived therefrom must be viewed in a light most favorable to the nonmoving party.

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John v. Douglas Cnty. Sch. Dist., 125 Nev. 746, 752, 219 P.3d 1276, 1280 (2009) (internal quotations omitted).

Id. In this case, ironically, Plaintiffs are facing a flurry of motions from at least five teams of lawyers hired by the VIPI Defendants to increase costs and expenses to the maximum extent possible.

NRS 41.635 et seq.

<sup>18</sup> Id.

General allegations and conclusory statements do not create genuine issues of fact. 1920

In *Briggs v. Eden Council for Hope & Opportunity*,<sup>21</sup> the court held that to survive a challenge under the anti-SLAPP statute, a Plaintiff was only required to show *minimal merit* as to a claim, not to definitely prove it.<sup>22</sup>

The moving party seeking to dismiss a Plaintiff's complaint for defamation must establish "by a preponderance of the evidence, that the claim is 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."<sup>23</sup>

Each of those terms is defined as well. A "good faith communication" is a communication made to a governmental agency or made in direct connection with an "issue of public interest" in a place open to the public or in a public forum "which is truthful or is made without knowledge of its falsehood."<sup>24</sup>

If the moving party is successful in satisfying its burden, the burden then shifts to the Plaintiff to demonstrate "with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim" in the underlying lawsuit.<sup>25</sup>

Recent Nevada case law has discussed "good faith communication" and "issue of public interest." In *Lawrence v. Krahne*, the issue revolved around "statements

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Lawrence v. Krahne, 2015 Nev. App. Unpub. LEXIS 452, \*1-2, 2015 WL 5545555 (Nev. Ct. App. Sept. 16, 2015) (citing Wood v. Safeway, Inc., 121 Nev. 724, 729, 121 P.3d 1026, 1029 (2005)) (internal quotations omitted).

Notably, in *Panicaro v. Crowley*, the Court of Appeals of Nevada held that "Crowley's first amended complaint does not establish a genuine issue of material fact [...] because it utterly lacks specificity." Specifically addressing Crowley's defamation claim, the court stated "Crowley failed to point to any defamatory statements or even to whom they were directed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 19 Cal 4th 1106 (1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 1122-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> NRS 41.660(3)(a).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> NRS 41.637.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> NRS 41.660(3)(b)

made by medical personnel to law enforcement officers.<sup>26</sup> The Court upheld the district court's decision that "the respondents met their initial burden because their 2 statements to the police were made in good faith and meant to procure governmental 3 action in the form of an investigation of Lawrence's threats."27 4 In Shapiro v. Welt, the Supreme Court of Nevada adopted "guiding principles" 5 for what distinguishes a public interest from a private one"28 from a California case, 6 Piping Rock Partners, Inc. v. Davis Lerner Assocs.: 8 (1) "public interest" does not equate with mere curiosity; (2) a matter of public interest should be something of concern to a substantial 9 number of people; a matter of concern to a speaker and a relatively small specific audience is not a matter of public interest; 10 (3) there should be some degree of closeness between the challenged statements and the asserted public interest-the assertion of a broad and 11 amorphous public interest is not sufficient; (4) the focus of the speaker's conduct should be the public interest rather than 12 a mere effort to gather ammunition for another round of private controversy; and 13 (5) a person cannot turn otherwise private information into a matter of public interest simply by communicating it to a large number of people. 14 The Shapiro Court further stated that "If a court determines the issue is of public 15

interest, it must next determine whether the communication was made in a place

open to the public or in a public forum. Finally, no communication falls within the

purview of NRS 41.660 unless it is truthful or is made without knowledge of its

falsehood."29 19

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Lawrence, 2015 Nev. App. Unpub. LEXIS 452 at 3. 23

*Id.* (emphasis added).

Shapiro v. Welt, Nos. 67363, 67596, 2017 Nev. LEXIS 1, at \*9 (Feb. 2, 2017)

Id. at 10. (quoting NRS 41.637(4), NRS 41.637, and NRS 41.660 internal quotations omitted).

### DEFENDANTS FAIL TO MEET THEIR INITIAL BURDEN

Preliminarily, VIPI Defendants must not be allowed to confuse this Court. The definition of "good faith" is provided in detail *supra* and can be found in NRS 41.637. The definition of "good faith" *is not* what the VIPI Defendants pretend it to be -- whether their defamatory claims "were either true or substantially true and therefore protected [...], or they constituted non-actionable opinion that is not subject to a truthfulness evaluation [...], or they were privileged [or hyperlinked.]"<sup>30</sup> VIPI Defendants are attempting to "create authority" which, even if the Court entertained the effort, would still result in their *Motion* being denied and this case moving forward to the trier of fact.

VIPI Defendants confuse the very specific SLAPP standard with a Motion to Dismiss pursuant to 12(b)(5). For multiple pages, VIPI Defendants go on at length regarding "non-actionable opinions," "using hyperlinks to link to underlying source materials," 32 and asserting that statements made by Defendants were "true, substantially true or constituted non-actionable opinion." Those sections of VIPI Defendants' *Motion* provide little help to this Court in the context of an anti-SLAPP analysis. 34

The result of this anti-SLAPP motion **should** be simple. VIPI Defendants have utterly failed to meet their initial burden of showing that their defamatory

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> See *Motion* at 11, lines 4-7.

<sup>21 || 31</sup> See *Motion* at 11.

<sup>32</sup> See *Motion* at 12.

<sup>33</sup> See Motion at 13.

The only bit of usefulness in the VIPI *Motion* is when, at the tail end of the analysis, the Court decides whether the communication was made in a place open to the public or in a public forum and that communication is either truthful or is made without knowledge of its falsehood. There can be no legitimate question that the communications were made in a place open to the public and were knowingly false when made.

speech is "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." Moreover, even if they *could* meet that burden, the *Motion* would fail because their defamatory speech was untruthful and made with knowledge of its falsehood.

As detailed below, VIPI Defendants cannot show that their defamatory speech is an attempt to petition the government to act, *or* that their defamatory speech is *directly connected* with an issue of *public concern*.

# IV. THE DEFAMATORY SPEECH IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT

VIPI Defendants fail to allege that their defamatory speech is an attempt to petition the government to act. This Court should note this fact and find that the VIPI Defendants have waived any such claim. Even if the Court does not make this finding, the VIPI Defendants cannot provide any proof that the defamatory speech ever petitioned any governmental agency to act in any way. The purpose was solely to malign and injure Plaintiffs.

# V. THE DEFAMATORY SPEECH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY "ISSUE OF PUBLIC CONCERN"

The entire premise of the VIPI Defendants' Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq. boils down to the false premise that anything and everything Plaintiffs do is "a matter of public concern" because they practice law and thus are "public figures." There are no facts in VIPI Defendants' Motion, this case, or any controlling authority, which lend any credence to that false premise.

Actually, it is well established that in Nevada, being a private practice attorney, representing a client in a private case, is not a "public figure" in any way.<sup>35</sup> The Nevada Supreme Court has held that that professional accomplishments such as having an "accomplished career," having a "national reputation" for skill and caring, going to a great school, having a prestigious fellowship, publishing numerous articles and abstracts, contributing to chapters in books and textbooks, belonging to specialized professional groups, and even being "the subject of newspaper articles" does *not* make a private practitioner a "limited-purpose public figure" for purposes of defamation law.<sup>36</sup>

At page 18 of the *Motion*, VIPI Defendants allege that the "December 25, 2016 statement pertained to the 2015 interview that Willick gave to VIPI [...] about then-pending legislation." VIPI Defendants are not only confused about what the defamatory speech is, they are also confused (again) of the SLAPP standard, and are temporally challenged -- nothing was "pending" at the end of 2016. Nothing had been "pending" for over eighteen months.

The defamatory post on December 25, 2016, is clearly specified in the *Complaint*.<sup>37</sup> The defamatory speech is: "This is the type of hypocrisy we have in our community. People that claim to be for veterans but yet they screw us for profit and power." While "veteran's issues" is a matter of public concern, the focus of this defamatory speech is Marshal Willick and Defendants' concerted effort to harm his reputation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> See *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.*, 418 U.S. 323 (1974).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> See *Bongiovi v. Sullivan*, 122 Nev. 556, 138 P.3d 433 (2006).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> See *Complaint* at 5, 9-21.

**No** reasonable person could read the above statement in the context provided in the *Complaint* – along with the other email-blasts and internet postings – and conclude that the speech is directed at "veteran's issues." VIPI Defendants efforts in disseminating this, and their many other email-blasts and internet postings are a "mere effort to gather ammunition for another round of private controversy." And the Nevada Supreme Court has made it crystal clear that such is **not** a legitimate "public interest."

At page 19, the VIPI Defendants again mis-state what the defamatory language *is*: "The January 12, 2017 statement, about a federal judge in Virginia finding that Willick committed defamation per se against a law student who was opposing his client in a divorce case [...] likewise was of public concern."

Respectfully, there is absolutely **no** authority that could allow this Court to find that a dispute between two **private** individuals in a decade-old private Virginia lawsuit is a matter of public concern, no matter how badly the VIPI Defendants wish to pretend that Plaintiff Willick was a public figure.<sup>39</sup>

VIPI Defendants persist in that misleading and confusing argument for every instance of defamatory speech clearly laid out in the *Complaint*. This Court should note their attempts to confuse and the false premise under which the pending

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Shapiro, Nos. 67363, 67596, 2017 Nev. LEXIS 1, at \*9. Many of Defendants' postings included a promised \$10,000 "bounty" for anyone who could come up with additional defamatory material to be used against Willick; **nothing** in the case law would excuse such a blatant call for defamatory material.

While it is a distraction, the Court could note that the factual assertions in the motion are largely false – Defendants allege repeatedly (e.g., at 3, 9, and 19) that Willick "lost" the *Holyoak* appeal – actually, the other side was the appellant, because Willick won the case at the trial court level, and the other side lost the appeal as well. It should also be noted that the VIPI Defendants don't appear to disseminate information about the outcome of other attorneys' cases or even other cases dealing with PERS, such as the recent Nevada Supreme Court Decision in *Henson v. Henson*. The VIPI Defendants specifically targeted Plaintiffs for any defamatory allegations they could concoct.

Motion was brought, and deny this frivolous and vexatious Motion for VIPI Defendants' failure to satisfy their initial burden under NRS 41.660(3)(a).

# VI. PLAINTIFFS MAKE A *PRIMA FACIE* SHOWING OF A PROBABILITY OF PREVAILING ON THEIR CLAIMS

This issue need not even be **reached** -- Defendants did not and cannot meet their burden on the first prong of the test so the analysis would not proceed to the second prong where Plaintiffs have any burden to present evidence. However, assuming *arguendo* that the Defendants **had** met their burden, there can be no serious question that Plaintiffs have shown "with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim."

#### a. DEFAMATION

The Nevada Supreme Court has been pretty clear:

a statement is not defamatory if it is an exaggeration or generalization that could be interpreted by a reasonable person as "mere rhetorical hyperbole." Nor is a statement defamatory if it is absolutely true, or substantially true. A statement is, however, defamatory if it "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."

In determining whether a statement is actionable for the purposes of a defamation suit, the court must ask "whether a reasonable person would be likely to understand the remark as an expression of the source's opinion or as a statement of existing fact."<sup>40</sup>

VIPI Defendants' false claims that Willick has committed crimes against children, has been found "guilty" of anything, or is "unethical," cannot pass the "straight face test" under that standard. Even if it could, the Nevada Supreme Court has specified that "[w]hether a statement is defamatory is generally a question of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 715, 57 P.3d 82, 88 (2002).

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See Motion at 23.

Mosley v. Figliuzzi, 113 Nev. 51, 930 P.2d 1110 (1997).

law; however, where a statement is susceptible of different constructions, one of which is defamatory, resolution of the ambiguity is a question of fact for the jury."

VIPI Defendants are attempting to prevent Plaintiffs from presenting this case to a finder of fact, because they know they cannot survive an examination of their behavior. As Judge Abbi Silver explained, dissenting in *Panicaro v. Crowley*: "The purpose of the [anti-SLAPP] statute is to deter frivolous lawsuits, not to prevent one party from presenting their case to a jury.

Next, VIPI Defendants make the absurd claim that merely because "each of the statements at issue contained hyperlinks to source materials, whether to the *VIPI radio show, Court Orders, newspaper articles or other documents*" this somehow "undermines a defamation claim."<sup>41</sup> Stated differently, VIPI Defendants' position is that they can post and disseminate *anything* about *anyone* so long as there is a hyperlink to *their own radio show*. As the Nevada Supreme Court expressed it, the assertion "must be rejected on the ground of inherent absurdity."<sup>42</sup>

VIPI Defendants next false premise is that they are either "news media" or "reporting newsworthy events in judicial proceedings." They are, and are doing, neither – they are running an extortion ring.

**None** of the Defendants in this matter are "news media." The Nevada Supreme Court has defined "news media":

The news media acts as an agent of the people to inform the public what transpires in the courtroom and to ensure the fairness of the proceedings. In exchange for this absolute privilege, comes the requirement and responsibility

that the report be *fair*, *accurate*, *and impartial*. Opinions must be left to the editorial pages or editorial segments of television broadcasts.<sup>43</sup>

The Defendants in this matter, through their words and actions, have demonstrated that they have zero interest in being, or appearing, "fair," "accurate," *or* "impartial."

Instead, the Defendants in this matter have engaged in a very deliberate, malicious, ongoing campaign to defame the Plaintiffs to many thousands of people and intentionally injure their personal and business interests to the maximum extent possible using copyrighted material and conspiring with others to do so for the illicit purpose of corrupting ongoing court proceedings. To label these individuals as "news media" and provide them with immunity would be an act of Orwellian doublespeak.

**Nothing** that the Defendants have done could rationally be described as "reporting." As detailed in the *Complaint* and this *Opposition*, Defendants are attacking Plaintiffs because they were paid to do so and they are attempting to extort and injure Willick's fiancée.

Operation of a defamation campaign in service of an extortion ring gets no cover from the expression by the court in *Sahara*, *supra*, that "[a] *fair and impartial* account of the proceedings in a court of justice is, as a general rule, a justifiable publication."<sup>44</sup> The Defendants in this matter did not make a "justifiable publication."

The Defendants in this matter are not fair or impartial "reporters" of *any* kind; there simply is no excuse for the deliberately false months-long republication of the defamatory "Attorney Marshall [sic] and his pal convicted of sexually [sic]

<sup>43</sup> Sahara Gaming Corp. v. Culinary Workers Union Local 226, 115 Nev. 212, 215, 984 P.2d 164, 166 (1999).

<sup>44</sup> Id. at 215, quoting *Thompson v. Powning*, 15 Nev. 195, 203 (1880).

coercion [sic] of a minor." This is a portion of the "headline" from the "Virginia post." This Court cannot find that the Defendants *fairly and impartially* reported the proceedings of a court of justice.<sup>45</sup>

Defendants' reference (at 5) to the *Beery* case is notable, primarily because that case, about two years ago, involving "friends" of Sanson, ended precisely as this case should end – in the public posting of a formal retraction and apology at all places where the defamatory material had been posted, including a promise to never again post such defamatory material.<sup>46</sup>

# b. EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, FALSE LIGHT, BUSINESS DISPARAGEMENT AND CONSPIRACY

VIPI Defendants assert that "since the speech at issue is protected, each of these causes of action [emotional distress, false light, business disparagement, and conspiracy] must necessarily fail." They are wrong. Contrary to what VIPI Defendants wish to be true, their defamatory speech is **not** protected, **is** actionable, and the Plaintiffs have easily met their burden of showing a *prima facie* case of defamation.

VIPI Defendants rely on *Maduike v. Agency Rent-A-Car* in support of their assertion that "the complaint alleges no facts to support a claim of emotional distress." *Maduike* involved a family who was injured in a rental car crash subsequent to the rental car company refusing to change out an allegedly defective

This false premise that the Defendants are "news media" or "reporting judicial proceedings" so blatantly ignores controlling authority, that *sua sponte* imposition of NRCP 11 sanctions would be appropriate.

<sup>46</sup> It is a minor point, but the claim that that there was a "non-monetary settlement" is not entirely accurate – some defendants in that action have multi-million dollar judgments entered against them; the ring-leaders of that defamation scheme were impecunious, so the public retraction and apology was the only significant recompense to be obtained.

vehicle. The facts of *Maduike* are a world away from those present here. At trial, the Maduikes presented evidence that:

1) Agency rented to the Maduike a three-year-old car with over 53,000 miles of service and only \$349.00 in repairs expended; 2) Agency rented the car to them without inspecting its safety equipment after a rental of over a month to another customer; 3) Agency rented the car to them despite a "readily apparent" brake or tire problem; 4) after the Maduike had been directed to return to Las Vegas and after the brakes had failed, causing the rear-end accident, Agency refused to take any measures to repair or prevent further driving of the car. Peter Maduike testified that the Las Vegas Agency employee who refused to replace the rental car stated, "There is nothing I can do, man. There is nothing I can do, man." According to testimony, the employee then ignored Peter.

Here, the actions and conduct of the Defendants in this matter go far beyond rental of an inadequately inspected vehicle or an employee making an arguably rude statement. We have provided evidence of a very deliberate, malicious, ongoing campaign to defame the Plaintiffs to many thousands of people and to injure their personal and business interests to the maximum extent possible using copyrighted material and conspiring with others to do so for the illicit purpose of corrupting ongoing court proceedings, all of which is laid out in detail in the *Complaint*.

In *Branda v. Sanford* the Nevada Supreme Court opined that severe emotional distress could manifest as "hysterical and nervous . . . nightmares, great nervousness and bodily illness and injury." 47 Notably, the *Branda* Court held that:

marginally adequate notice was given respondent of the basis of the claim for relief. A cause of action for intentional infliction of emotional distress was pled and prima facie proof given at trial. The jury was entitled to determine, considering prevailing circumstances, contemporary attitudes and Cheryl's own susceptibility, whether the conduct in question constituted extreme outrage.

Could a judge or jury ultimately find after trial that the actions of Defendants here have not been "outrageous enough" or that the impact on Plaintiffs was not "bad

<sup>47</sup> Branda v. Sanford, 97 Nev. 643, 648, 637 P.2d 1223, 1227 (1981).

enough"? Sure – but that evidence has not yet been developed in discovery or presented at trial, and the discussion of what some jury might find based on evidence that has not even been discovered or presented is, at best, speculative.

The Plaintiffs in this matter have pled and demonstrated a *prima facie* showing of the probability of prevailing on all the claims which the VIPI Defendants allege "must fail." This Court should deny the anti-SLAPP motion accordingly.

#### c. RICO

In Nevada, "for a plaintiff to recover under Nevada RICO, three conditions must be met: (1) the plaintiff's injury must flow from the defendant's violation of a predicate Nevada RICO act; (2) the injury must be proximately caused by the defendant's violation of the predicate act; and (3) the plaintiff must not have participated in the commission of the predicate act."

Here, VIPI Defendants admit that Plaintiffs have pled at least one crime under the RICO umbrella. This alone should be substantial evidence for a *prima* facie showing that the Plaintiffs will prevail on their claims.

#### VII. COUNTERMOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

VIPI Defendants' *Motion* is both frivolous *and* vexatious. This anti-SLAPP *Motion* is merely a tactic being used by all the Defendants in this matter to overburden this Court's limited resources, hinder and prevent discovery – and thus this case – from progressing, and increase the costs of litigation.<sup>48</sup>

Pursuant to NRS 41.670(2):

If the court denies a special motion to dismiss filed pursuant to NRS 41.660 and finds that the motion was *frivolous or vexatious*, the court *shall* award to the prevailing party reasonable costs and attorney's fees incurred in responding to the motion." (emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> See NRS 18.010.

Moreover, NRS 41.670(3)(a)-(b) provides:

In addition to reasonable costs and attorney's fees awarded pursuant to subsection 2, the court may award:

- (a) An amount of up to \$10,000; and
- (b) Any such additional relief as the court deems proper to punish and deter the filing of frivolous or vexatious motions.

Here, this Court should make a finding that VIPI Defendants' Motion is frivolous and vexatious. Furthermore, and in light of the number of Defendants in this action, the multiple announcements from the remaining Defendants of intent to file and continue filing anti-SLAPP motions, this Court should award an additional \$10,000 in attorney's fees and any further amount the Court "deems proper to punish and **deter** the filing of frivolous or vexatious motions."

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Honorable Court deny Defendants STEVE W. SANSON and VETERANS IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.'s motion in its entirety, and grant Plaintiffs' countermotion for an award of attorney's fees and costs.

DATEDTuesday, March 07, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

<u>/s/ Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.</u> 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

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#### **DECLARATION OF MARSHAL S. WILLICK**

- 1. I, Marshal S. Willick, declare that I am competent to testify to the facts contained in the preceding filing.
- 2. I have read the preceding filing, and I have personal knowledge of the facts contained therein, unless stated otherwise. Further, the factual averments contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, except those matters based on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.
- 3. The factual averments contained in the preceding filing are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada (NRS 53.045 and 28 U.S.C. § 1746), that the foregoing is true and correct.

**EXECUTED** this .

MARSHAL S. WILLICK, ESQ.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing *Opposition to Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.*; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs was filed electronically with the Eighth Judicial District Court in the above-entitled matter on Tuesday, March 07, 2017. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List, pursuant to NEFCR 9, as follows:

Anat Levy, Esq. Alex Ghoubadi, Esq. Attorneys for Defendants

/s/ David J. Schoen, IV, ACP
An Employee of The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

3/8/2017 E-Filing Details

Details of filing: Opposition to Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.; and Countermotion for

Attorney's Fees and Costs

Filed in Case Number: A-17-750171-C

**E-File ID:** 9155969

Lead File Size: 162620 bytes

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Case Title: A-17-750171-C

Case Name: Marshal Willick, Plaintiff(s) vs. Steve Sanson, Defendant(s)

Filing Title: Opposition to Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et, seq.; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs

Filing Type: EFS

Filer's Name: Jennifer V. Abrams

Filer's Email: sworpell@theabramslawfirm.com

Account Name: Jennifer V. Abrams

Filing Code: OPPC

**Amount:** \$ 3.50

Court Fee: \$0.00

Card Fee: \$ 0.00

Payment: Filing still processing. Payment not yet captured.

Comments:

**Courtesy Copies:** 

Firm Name: The Abrams Law Firm, LLC

Your File Number:

Status: Pending - (P)

Date Accepted:

**Review Comments:** 

Reviewers

File Stamped Copy:

Cover Document:

Documents:

Lead Document: OPP Anti-SLAPP - Willick.pdf 162620 bytes

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Response: Reference:

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7	CLARK COUNTY			
8	MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW ) GROUP,	Case No.:	A-17-750171-C	
9	Plaintiff,	Department:	XVIII	
10				
11	vs.	1		
	STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA;	Hearing date:	March 14, 2017	
12	CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; DON WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN	Hearing time:	0:00 a.m.	
13	POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.;		9.00 <b>u</b>	
14	SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN  STEELMON; and DOES I THROUGH X,			
14				
15	Defendant.			
16				
17	EXHIBITS TO OPPOSITION TO ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO NRS 41.65			
•				
18	et. seq.; AND			
19	COUNTERMOTION FOR ATTOI	RNEY'S FEES	AND COSTS	
20	COME NOW the Plaintiffs, MARSH	IAL S. WILLIC	K and WILLICK LAW	
21	GROUP, by and through their attorney of record, Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq., of The			
22	Abrams & Mayo Law Firm, and hereby files the following exhibits to their <i>Opposition</i>			
23	to Defendants STEVE W. SANSON	and VETER	ANS IN POLITICS	
24				

1	INTERNATIONAL,	INC.'s Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS	
2	41.650 et. seq.; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs:		
3	EXHIBIT 1:	Veterans In Politics International email message for the	
4		February 4, 2017 radio show and the "A-Team" quote on page 5;	
5		Screenshot of Facebook post from "Steve Sanson," dated	
6		January 24, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.; Screenshot of Facebook post	
7		from "Steve Sanson," dated January 24, 2017 at 1:17 p.m.;	
8		Screenshot of Facebook post from "Steve W. Sanson," dated	
9		January 24, 2017 at 1:19 p.m.	
10	EXHIBIT 2:	Screenshot of Veterans In Politics International Facebook post,	
11		dated January 13, 2017 at 12:00 a.m.	
12	EXHIBIT 3:	Screenshots of various Facebook pages controlled by the VIPI	
13		defendants showing the original defamatory article re-posted	
14		after the "correction" article.	
15	DATED Wednesday	y, March 08, 2017.	
16		Respectfully submitted:	
17		THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM	
18			
19		/s/ Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq. JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ.	
20		Nevada State Bar Number: 7575 6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100	
21		Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Phone: (702) 222-4021	
22		Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com Attorney for Plaintiffs	
23			

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing *Exhibits to Opposition to Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.*; and Countermotion for *Attorney's Fees and Costs* was filed electronically with the Eighth Judicial District Court in the above-entitled matter on Wednesday, March 08, 2017. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List, pursuant to NEFCR 9, as follows:

Anat Levy, Esq. Alex Ghoubadi, Esq. Attorneys for Defendants

/s/ David J. Schoen, IV, ACP

An Employee of The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

# EXHIBIT 1

## EXHIBIT 1

# EXHIBIT 1

Like 35 | Share Share:

Tweet



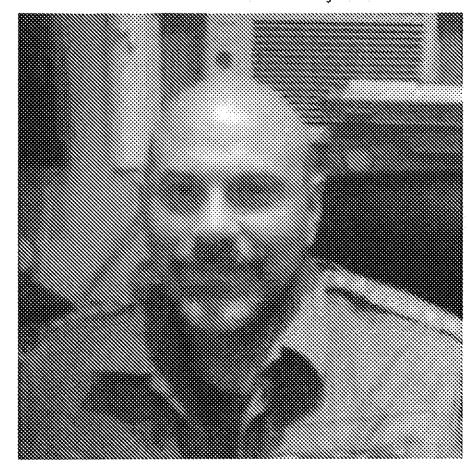
# Charles McChesney & Victoria Adams to appear on the Veterans In Politics video-talk show

Former Bail Agent & Spiritual Healer

AND OUT MORE



"Veterans In Politics Talk Show" (McChesney & Adams) Call Into the show 702 685 8380



Charles McChesney former bail enforcer discussing how the Federal Bureau of Investigations over reach when deciding who to target



Victoria Adams a Spiritual Healer

Read More about Charles McChesney

Read More about Victoria Adams

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA- - Veterans In Politics video Talk Show proudly announces that Charles McChesney former bail enforcer discussing how the Federal Bureau of Investigations over reach when deciding who to target and Victoria Adams a Spiritual Healer to appear on the "Veterans In Politics" internet video-talk-show as a special guest on Saturday - February 4, 2017 from 2-3pm PT. Listen and watch LIVE on Veterans In Politics Talk show now on World Wide Digital Broadcasting Corp.

For more than a decade the non-partisan "Veterans In Politics Talk-Show" (VIP Talk-Show) has informed listeners about national veteran and political issues.

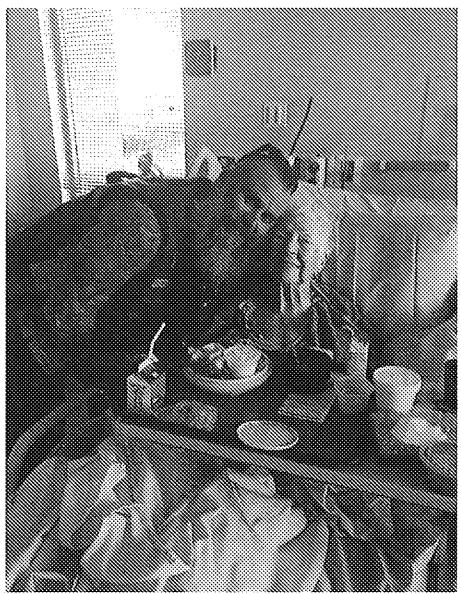
Past guests include active duty and veterans from all branches, authors, business owners, organization heads and political candidates and incumbents representing all parties from federal, state and local government branches.

The listening audience spans nationally and reaches a demographic of every gender, age and socioeconomic background. The VIP Talk-Show has become a trusted source of information and excerpts from past episodes have been quoted and published in reports of media and investigations of government agencies. Achievements include awards and special recognition's from countless non-profit organizations, Mayors and City Councils plus schools.

Listen to hosts **Steve Sanson**, **Jim Jonas and co-host Steven Sonnenburg** plus special guests co-hosts live during the VIP Talk-Show on every Saturday from 1400-1500 (2:00pm-3:00pm PT) on World Wide Digital Broadcasting Corp.

Learn More

VVVII Veteran Irene Niller's Funeral



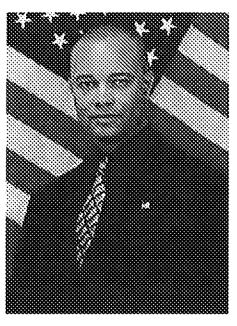
Attention...bikers, Veterans and fellow patriots!!! Our beloved Irene Miller's last wish was to have a Veterans Funeral and Memorial with "100's of motorcycles"!!

Her ceremony will be Tues Jan 31st at 1400 at the Veterans Cemetery in Boulder City. Anyone... (Especially bikers) wanting to help fulfill her wish need to be at Railroad pass casino no later than 1300 on Tues the 31st. don't be late...I repeat Do Not Be Late!!! Plan accordingly. The Marine Riders will road guard as we escort our fallen Hero and WWII Vet to her final resting place. A celebration of her wonderful life will be held immediately after at The Leatherneck Club, 4360 Spring Mt rd. It will be taco

Tues...Taco bar will be free but donations will be appreciated. Let's give this beautiful American and Patriot the sendoff she deserves!!! All are welcome to ride...When asked why she volunteered for WWII being a female her simple reply was..."because I'm an American". Please share and let's make this a day for all to remember and set an example of how we need to Honor our Veterans. Respectfully, Pirate Mike

Learn More

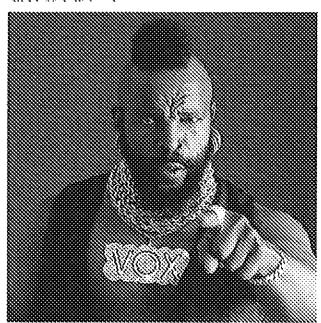
He Defended Us, Let's Defend Him!



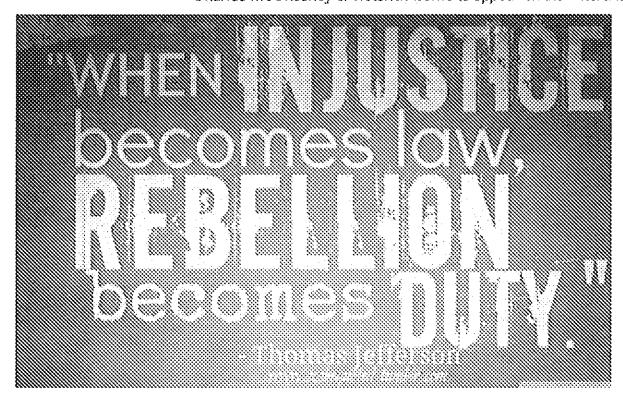
Click Here for more information

### Opinion Corner:

A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team; "When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner".



So the same goes here when people needed someone to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation. Where are those people now when we need some assistance?



There needs to be an Over-site Committee that can help place the Family Court System into compliance with the law. There are too many personal bias, discretionary rulings and favoritism amongst attorneys and judges with this judicial branch.

A system that was created to help families stay together has been designed to tear them apart and has created tremendous financial burden on the shoulders of struggling citizens that are stuck in a very emotional time of their lives.

Learn More

### <u>Listen & Watch the Interview of Last Week's Show:</u>

LIVE every Saturday from 2-3PM Pacific Time.

Veterans In Politics video Talk Show proudly announces that Mark Amodei US Congressman Representing District 2 and Debra March Henderson City Councilwoman/Candidate for Henderson City Mayor





Please contribute to Veterans In Politics in an effort in helping us to continue our mission by Exposing Corruption, Champion Veterans Rights, and Educating the public on candidates running for elected

office: go to www.veteransinpolitics.org and click onto our PayPal Page or at our PO Box 28211/ Las Vegas, NV. 89126...

\*If you would like to be a guest on our show please contact: email

<u>veteransinpol@aol.com</u> or if you would like to place a commercial on anyone of our shows please dial 702 283 8088.

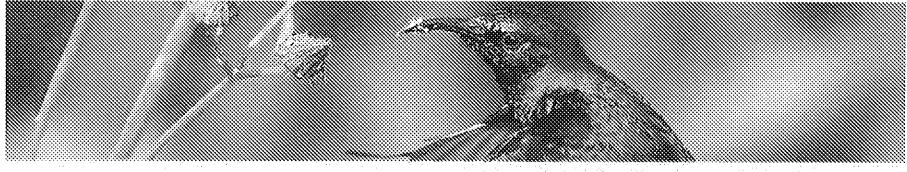
\*If you would like to visit any of our archived interviews go to our YouTube Channel.

Click here for our YouTube Channel or <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1vBzrcEJOui3Cp5Bz-fT6Q">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1vBzrcEJOui3Cp5Bz-fT6Q</a> and Click here for archived shows on Word Wide Digital Broadcasting Corp

\*If you would like to see who is coming on our show next go to our radio webpage. <a href="http://www.wwdbtv.com/veterans-in-politics.html">http://www.wwdbtv.com/veterans-in-politics.html</a>

Click here for recent archived shows

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At Lakeside Business Suites: 2620 Regatta Drive Suite 102 Las Vegas, NV 89128 702 553-2386 (office) 702 370-4244 (cell)

License Marriage & Family Therapist By appointment only

Antalik elekaria (Ues ean) - a aaaa kuruus karaa kuruus karaa karaa karaa karaa karaa karaa karaa karaa karaa k



Click Here for More information on REAL Chamber of Commerce





CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOURNEWS!

WEBSITE NEWS GOALS AND VALUES OFFICERS CONTACT US









Veterans in Politics International Inc.
702-283-8088
devildog1285@cs.com
www.veteransinpolitics.org

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FB Post Page 1 of 1



Steve Sanson

A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team; "When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner". So the same goes here when people needed somene to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation. Where are those people now when we need some assistance?

1/24/2017 1:00 PM (UTC -08:00)

0 comments.

FB Post Page 1 of 1



Steve Sanson

A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team;"When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner". So the same goes here when people needed somone to get dirty so they can stay nameless, we do it without hesitation. Where are those people now when we need some assistance?

1/24/2017 1:17 PM (UTC -08:00)

2 comments.



Steve W. Sanson

A quote from Mr. T from the A-Team; "When I was hungry nobody invited me over for dinner. Now, that I can afford to buy my own restaurant everybody wants to invite me over for dinner".

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1/24/2017 1:19 PM (UTC -08:00)

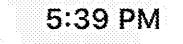
0 likes

0 comments.

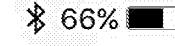
# EXHIBIT 2

## EXHIBIT 2

## EXHIBIT 2



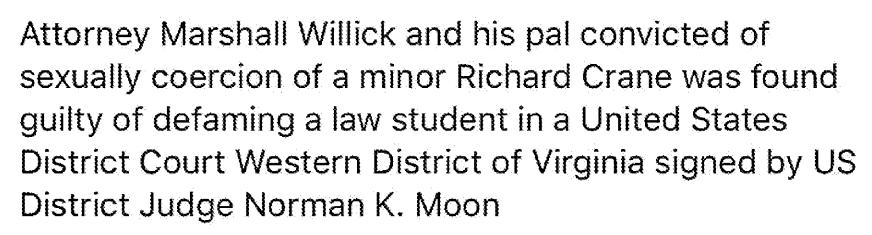
facebook.com





### **Veterans In Politics International**

January 13 at 12:00am · 🛞



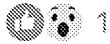
http://veteransinpolitics.org/2017/01/attorney-marshall-willick-pal-convicted-sexually-coercion-minor-richard-crane-found-guilty-defaming-law-student-united-states-district-court-western-district-virginia/



# Attorney Marshall Willick and his pal convicted of sexually...

veteransinpolitics.org

Learn More



10 Comments 3 Shares









### **Veterans In Politics International**

January 12 at 12:45am · 🛞

Lawsuit accuses Las Vegas lawyer, veterans group leader of defamation

http://www.newsmaxtv.vegas/interview-with-steve-sanson/



facebook.com

19 people reacted to this.

Done



#### Lee Pudemonhuchin Gilford

And this is how the defamation lawsuits begin. Nothing you shared indicates that Willick did anything but employ a nasty bastard. You have intentionally indicated that he was convicted. I offer you a couple of choices to correct this, because as someone claiming to represent veterans, I would appreciate it at least being done in a legal way.

- A) provide evidence that Willick was convicted.
- B) change your caption
- C) take this crap to your personal page. You stand before political figures in this state, indicating that you represent veterans (me) here in Las Vegas. You therefore have an obligation to take our representation responsibly. Getting in to pissing wars and getting sued for libel does nothing but discredit the image of veterans, that some of us pride ourselves in maintaining

Like · Reply · More · Jan 13



**Veterans In Politics International** Look Lee you are a Marine correct.. Everything we put out is... More

Lee Pudemo... replied . See all 9 replies



Write a comment...

Post

### 19 people reacted to this.

Done

You can't just make stuff up about people and post it; knowing it's wrong. That's the epitome of libel. So I'm asking you not to engage in criminal activities if you're publicly representing veterans.

There are plenty of other ways to measure Johnsons

Like · Reply · More · Jan 13



### **Veterans In Politics International**

Look Lee you are a Marine correct..

Everything we put out is true.. If you don't believe that don't engage in our page. We been doing this for over a decade..

Maybe you should do your own reserach before you engage in another conversation with our group. Semper Fi

Like · Reply · More · Jan 13



### Lee Pudemonhuchin Gilford

That's not how this works. That's not how any of this works. You are the media outlet of a state organization representing veterans. You are breaking the law. Speeding to work every day and not getting caught, doesn't suddenly make it legal. Similarly, you saying something is true, when the evidence you present is



Write a comment...

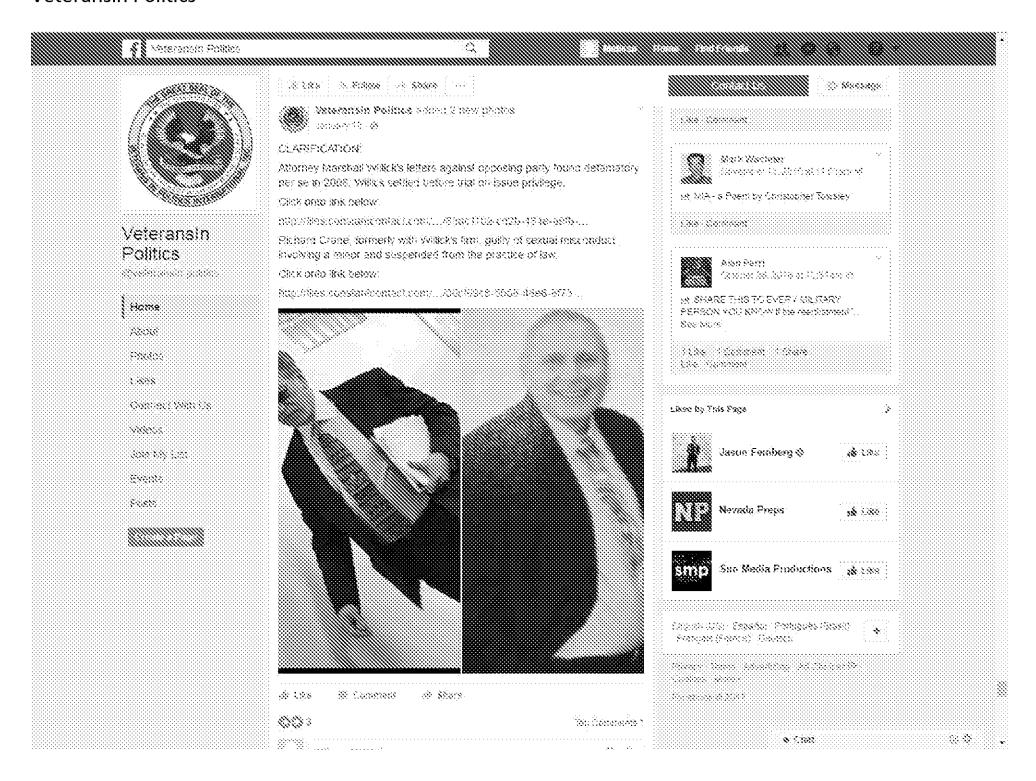
Post

# EXHIBIT 3

## EXHIBIT 3

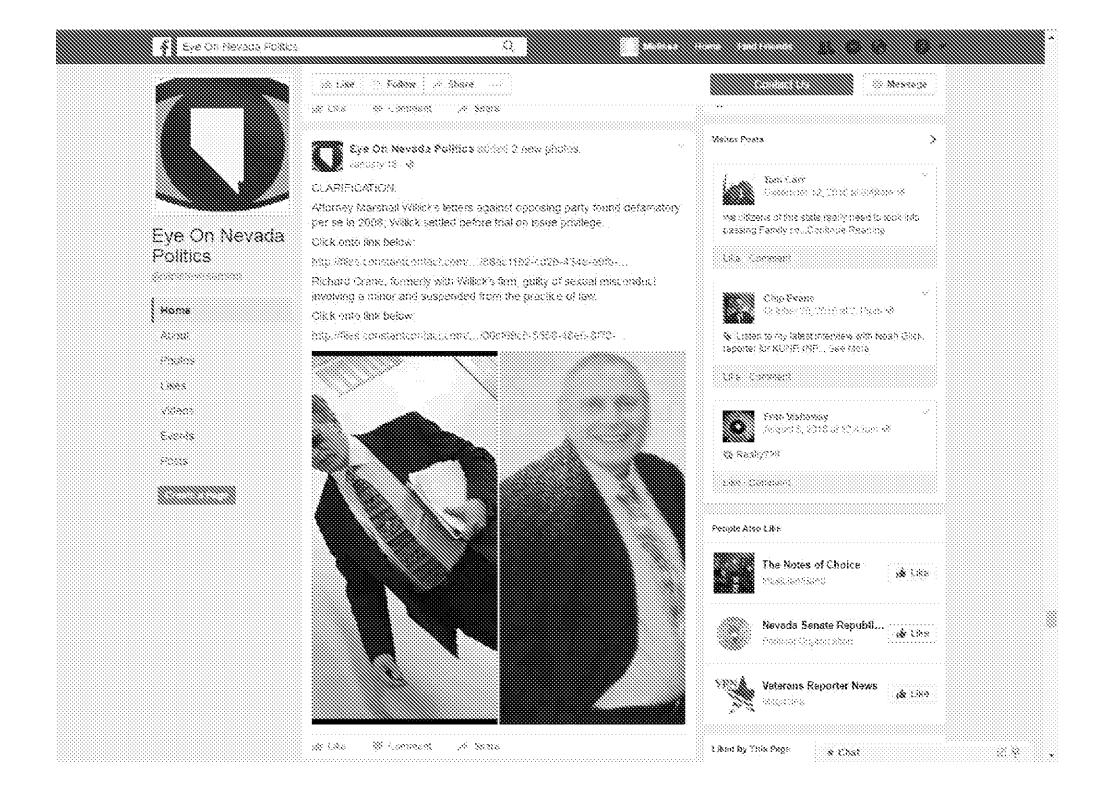
# EXHIBIT 3

#### **Veteransin Politics**



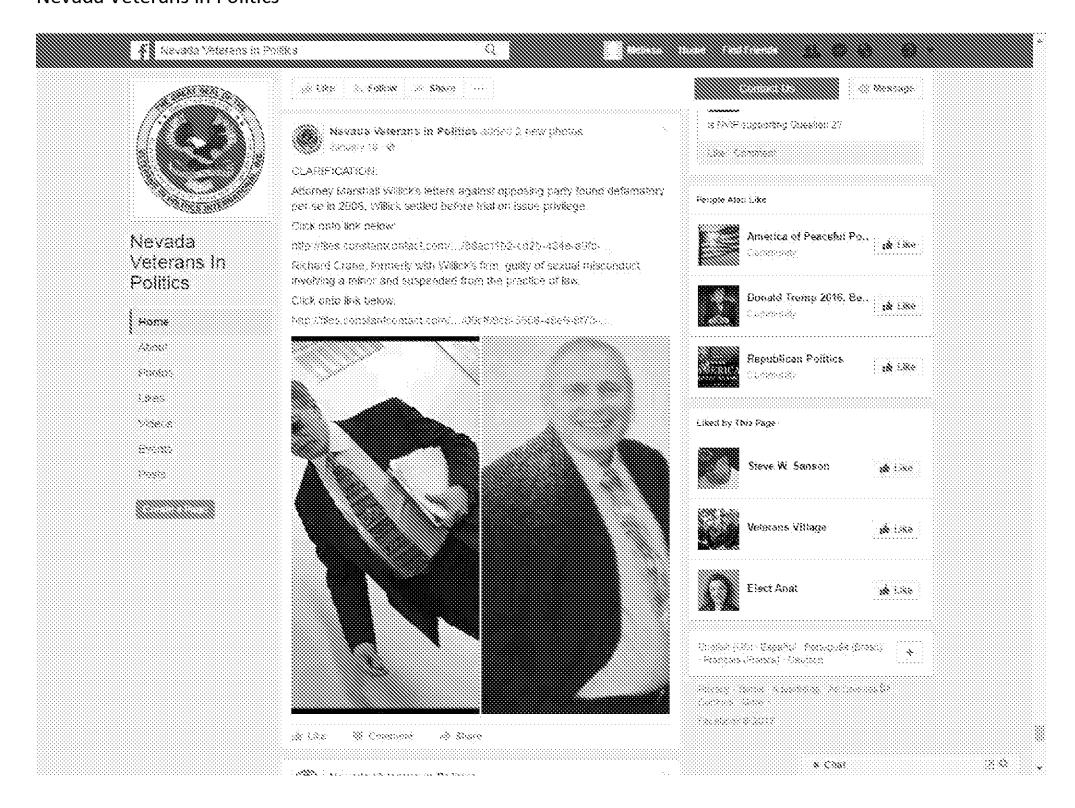


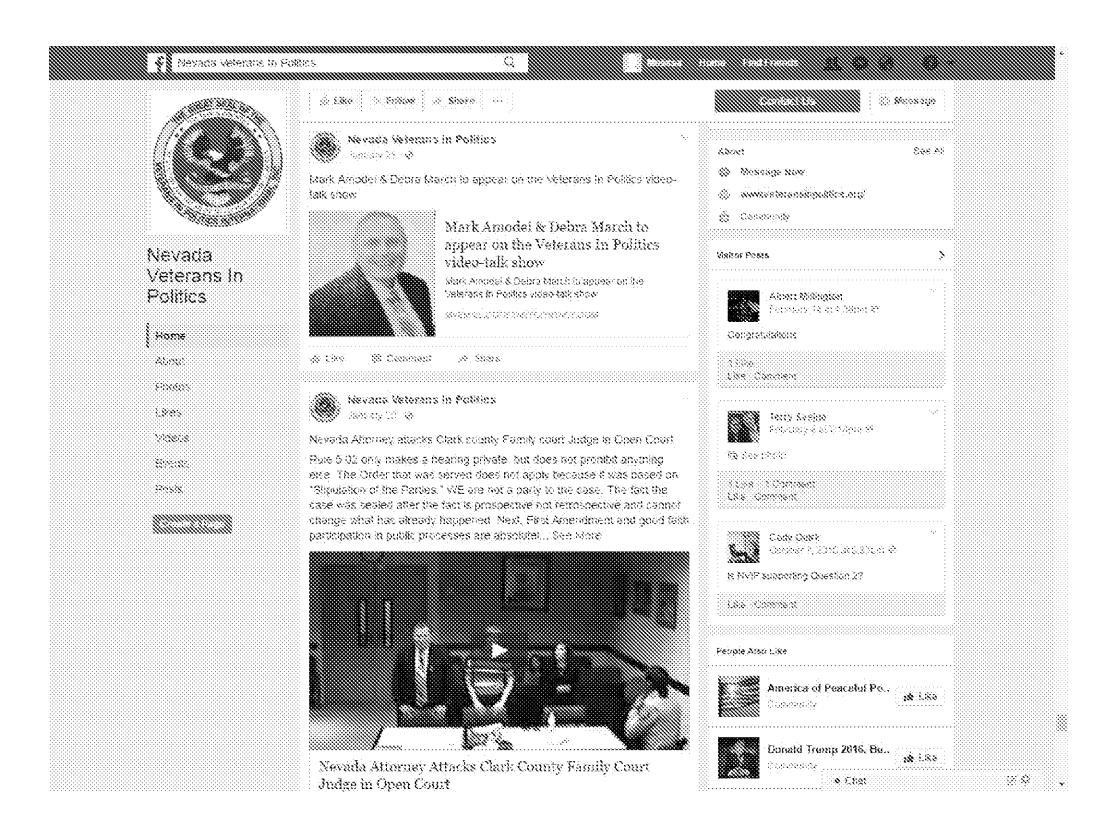
#### Eye on Nevada Politics



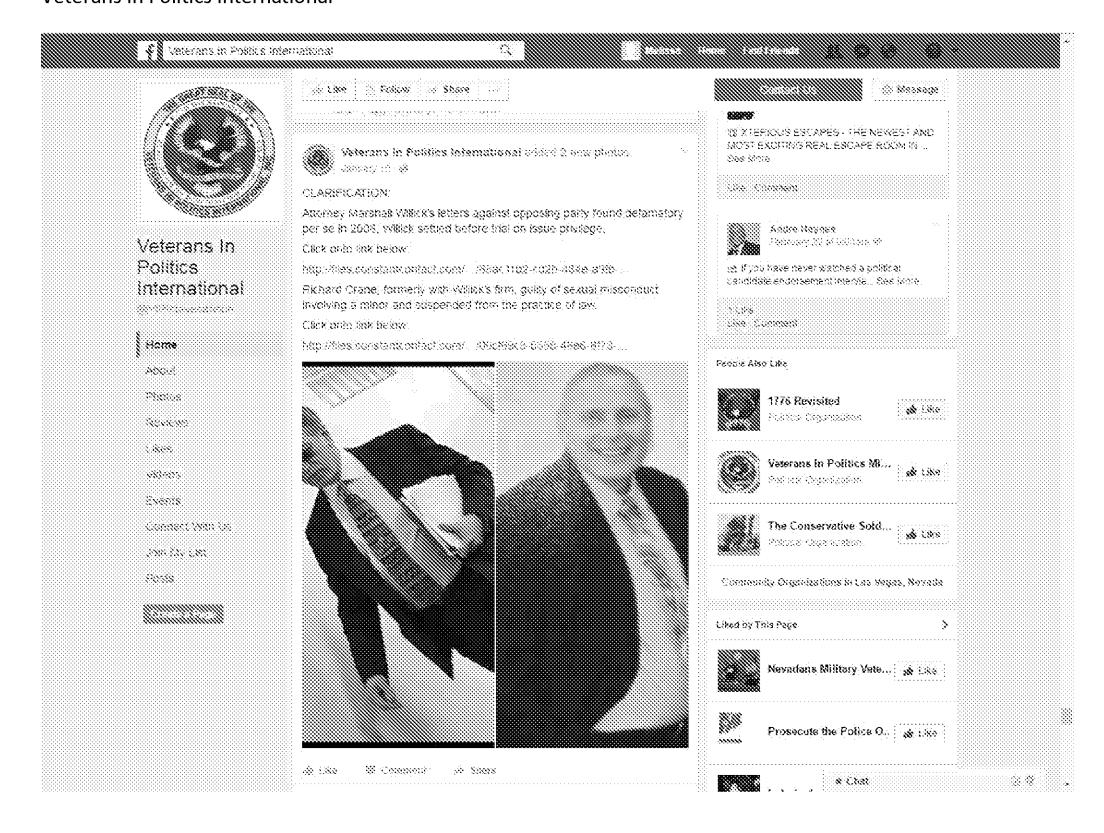


#### **Nevada Veterans In Politics**





#### **Veterans In Politics International**





1	ERR	Ω	Hun J. Comm	
	JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ.	<del></del>	CLERK OF THE COURT	
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				
	DISTRICT COURT			
7	CLARK COUNTY	, NEVADA		
8	MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW ) GROUP, )	Case No.:	A-17-750171-C	
9	Dlointiff )	Department:	XVIII	
10	Plaintiff, )			
	vs.	)		
11	STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA;	Hearing date:	March 14, 2017	
12	CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; )		.,	
13	DON WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN   POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.; )	Hearing time:	9:00 a.m.	
10	SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN )	, 		
14	STEELMON; and DOES I THROUGH X,			
15	Defendant.			
16	)			
16				
17	ERRATA TO OPPO			
18	ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DIS		ANT TO NRS 41.650	
	AND	,		
19	COUNTERMOTION FOR ATTOI	RNEY'S FEES	AND COSTS	
20	COME NOW the Plaintiffs, MARSH	IAL S. WILLICI	K and WILLICK LAW	
21	GROUP, by and through their attorney of record, Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq., of The			
22	Abrams & Mayo Law Firm, and hereby files the following errata to their <i>Opposition</i>			
23	to Defendants STEVE W. SANSON	and VETER	ANS IN POLITICS	
24	INTERNATIONAL, INC.'s Anti-SLAPP Specie	al Motion to Dis	smiss Pursuant to NRS	

1	41.650 et. seq.; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs, to correct the		
2	following:		
3	1. Footnote 13 on page 7 should be deleted;		
4	2. There should be a reference to Exhibit 3 at the end of the sentence or		
5	page 7, line 9; and		
6	3. The last four words in footnote 14 on page 7 ("The closing of the"		
7	should be deleted.		
8	DATED Wednesday, March 08, 2017.		
9	Respectfully submitted:		
10	THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM		
11	/a/ Ionnifon W. Abnama, Eag		
12	/s/ Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq. JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ. Nevada State Bar Number: 7575		
13	6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118		
14	Phone: (702) 222-4021 Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com		
15	Attorney for Plaintiffs		
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
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23			
24			

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing *Errata to Opposition to Anti-SLAPP* Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.; and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs was filed electronically with the Eighth Judicial District Court in the above-entitled matter on Wednesday, March 08, 2017. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List, pursuant to NEFCR 9, as follows:

Anat Levy, Esq. Alex Ghoubadi, Esq. Attorneys for Defendants

/s/ David J. Schoen, IV, ACP

An Employee of The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

1	MDSM	Alun J. Chum			
2	Anat Levy, Esq. (State Bar No. 12550)	CLERK OF THE COURT			
3	ANAT LEVY & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421				
4	Las Vegas, NV 89142				
	Phone: (310) 621-1199 E-mail: <u>alevy96@aol.com</u> ; Fax: (310) 734-1538				
<ul><li>5</li><li>6</li></ul>	Attorney for: DEFENDANTS VETERANS IN POLISTEVE SANSON	ITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND			
7					
8	DISTRICT COURT				
9	CLARK COUNTY,	, NEVADA			
10	MARSHALL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW ) GROUP,	) CASE NO. A-17-750171-C			
1		DEPT. NO.: XVIII (18)			
2	Plaintiffs,	) Hearing Date: 3/14/2017			
3	vs.	Time: 9:00 a.m.			
4	STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA;	[Filed concurrently with			
15	CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; DON (WOOOLBRIGHTS; VETERNAS IN POLITICS ()	Supplemental Declaration of Steve Sanson in Support of Defendants'			
16	INTERNATIONAL, INC.; SANSON	anti-SLAPP Motion.]			
17	CORPORATION; KAREN STEELMON; and DOES 1 THROUGH X				
		) )			
18	Defendants.				
9					
20	REPLY IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' ANTI-SLAPP				
21	SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO NRS 41.650 et. seq.				
22	Defendants Veterans In Politics International, Inc. ("VIPI") and Steve Sanson hereby				
23	submit this Reply in support of their anti-SLAPP motion pursuant to 41.650 et. seq.				
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
20					

### **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

### I. INTRODUCTION

For all of their protests that Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion is somehow frivolous, it is actually Plaintiffs' Opposition that is frivolous. Plaintiffs' Opposition fails in numerous key respects, and the anti-SLAPP motion filed by Defendants VIPI and Sanson should be granted to appropriately protect against Plaintiffs' improper attempt to use the legal system to silence speech.

### II. THE OPPOSITION HAS NO FACTUAL SUPPORT.

The Opposition is devoid of all evidentiary support. NRS 41.660 3(a) states that an anti-SLAPP motion shall be treated "as a motion for summary judgment." That means that evidence must be submitted in opposition of an anti-SLAPP motion. As stated in Defendants' moving papers, once the moving party shows by a preponderance of the evidence that its speech meets the criteria of NRS 41.650, i.e, that the speech was a "good faith communication in furtherance of ... free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern," then the burden shifts to the Plaintiff "to demonstrate with *prima facie* evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim." (NRS 41.660(3)(b); emphasis added.) Absent such prima facie evidentiary showing, the case must be dismissed with prejudice. (NRS 41.660(5): "dismissal operates as an adjudication on the merits.")

Here, the Opposition provides *no evidence whatsoever*, let alone that establishes a prima facie case of the probability of succeeding on the merits. Instead, the opposition is replete with accusations that are not only irrelevant to the anti-SLAPP analysis, but are grossly inaccurate. Those claims include that Defendants run an "extortion racket" (Opp. 2:18), make "money by launching defamatory 'smear campaigns" (Mtn. 3:4-5), claims that "VIPI was hired by Louis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Cuzze v. Univ. & Cmty. Coll. Sys. of Nevada, 123 Nev. 598, 602–03, 172 P.3d 131, 134 (2007) (if the moving party shows an absence of evidence to support the nonmoving party's case, "the nonmoving party must transcend the pleadings and, by affidavit or other admissible evidence, introduce specific facts that show a genuine issue of material fact." (internal citations omitted).

Schneider, Esq. to intimidate witnesses and a family court judge with threatened 'smear campaigns'" (Opp 3:14-18), that "VIPI and other Defendants" were hired "to launch a series of false, misleading, and defamatory 'smear campaigns' against Abrams" (the lawyer in this case) (Mtn., 4:8-11), and that Defendants tried to "alter the outcome of a pending sanctions motion" in an unrelated family law case (Mtn., 21-22).

The only purported "evidence" proffered in support of these claims is not evidence at all. It is instead a short, three paragraph declaration by Plaintiff that can be summed up as: "I have read the preceding filing, and I have personal knowledge of the facts contained therein, unless stated otherwise." (Willick Decl., ¶ 2.) Willick is unqualified to attest to, and fails to establish, any of these "facts."

Indeed it is the Opposition itself that reads like a "smear campaign" of Defendants. It would be improper for the Court to consider any of the factual allegations in the Opposition without proper evidentiary support.

### III. VIPI AND SANSON -- NEVADA HEROS.

Given the grossly inaccurate allegations in the Opposition, a recitation of who VIPI and Sanson are will provide some necessary background and shed light on how baseless this case and its allegations are. Each of the below facts are supported by Sanson's attached Supplementary Declaration, ("Sanson Supp. Decl.") paragraphs 2 through 10:

Defendant Steve Sanson is a decorated U.S. veteran who served his country in the Marine Corp. for six years including in active, often brutal, duty in Desert Shield and Desert Storm; he also served an additional six years as an active reservist with the U.S. Army. He has paid a high personal price for his service and is 100% combat related disabled. While Sanson has not, contrary to Plaintiff's allegation, been diagnosed with PTSD, he has seen the best and the worst in people under extreme circumstances, including as a former chaplain for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Marine Corps League.

In 2005, Sanson became the President of VIPI, a non-profit, non-partisan corporation.<sup>2</sup> Sanson made it his "mission" to ensure that VIPI advocates on behalf of Veterans and roots out

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Contrary to Plaintiff's allegation, VIPI is not a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, but rather, a

corruption wherever it hides in the dark crevices of government. VIPI's philosophy is that veterans did not die overseas, get maimed and put their lives on the line to preserve our democracy, just to have it corroded by our own corrupt public servants.

In furtherance of VIPI's mission, Sanson routinely testifies before the Nevada State

Legislature, participates in Town Hall meetings, County Commission meetings, Planning

Commission meetings, City Council meetings, Judicial Selection Committee meetings and other
government meetings. He is often called upon to give the invocation at public meetings.

VIPI and Sanson have received numerous commendations and awards from local, state and federal officials and bodies. Among them are certificates of recognition and/or appreciation from the Las Vegas City Council, the North Las Vegas City Council, the Henderson City Council, former U.S. Representative for Nevada, Jon Porter, former U.S. Representative for Nevada, Shelley Berkeley, and former U.S. Senator for Nevada, John Ensign. Sanson was also the third veteran named "Veteran of the Month" by Governor Brian Sandoval, Governor Gibbons appointed Sanson to the Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery Advisory Board, and Sanson was named one of Nevada's Distinguished Men in the 2016 Distinguished Men and Women Magazine.

VIPI's accomplishments are significant as well. Under Sanson's leadership, VIPI was instrumental in, among other things, creating Veterans' Court in Nevada. It got laws passed preventing veteran disability pay from being used in calculating spousal support. It got the passage of DMV veteran identification stickers to be put on Nevada drivers' licenses so that police who stop veterans can de-escalate potential violence. It got veteran de-escalation classes to become mandatory in police academy training, and worked to get a USO lounge at McCarren Airport for service personnel to use between flights.

VIPI also puts out a blog and writes articles, and hosts a weekly internet radio show, hosted by Sanson and other members of VIPI, in which they interview government officials and

501(c)(4) organization which can and does lobby government, endorse public officials and educates the public through various media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, Emails, internet talk shows, and traditional media. Also contrary to Plaintiff's unsupported accusation, VIPI is not in violation of any charitable organization laws.

election candidates to educate the public about pressing issues. Guests have included almost every public official in Nevada. Sanson's organization also developed a candidate endorsement process where distinguished guests from the community moderate and interview judicial and political candidates and vote on who to endorse based on their qualifications and moral fortitude to refuse corruption. To ensure the independence of the panel, Sanson disqualifies himself from voting and does not provide any questions to any panel members or to candidates either directly or indirectly.

Sanson and VIPI have developed such a strong local following that Nevada whistleblowers now routinely seek out VIPI to expose wrongdoing. Over the years, VIPI has exposed numerous corrupt politicians, political and judicial candidates and others, including most recently, Judge Rena Hughes who is now being investigated by the Judicial Disciplinary Commission for the actions that VIPI exposed. Plaintiff's claim that VIPI never exposed anyone because it purportedly didn't comment on former Judge Steve Jones and present Education Trustee Kevin Childs' alleged wrongdoing is simply wrong. Both Jones and Childs appeared on VIPI's radio show, both were the subject of articles disseminated by VIPI, Sanson on behalf of VIPI attended parts of former Judge Jones' trial and sent a letter to the federal judge in the case regarding Jones' sentencing. And, Sanson on behalf of VIPI spent over seven hours in a recent Trustee meeting to try to speak publicly regarding the Kevin Childs controversy.

Also, contrary to Plaintiff's allegations, Sanson does all this for free, often at his own personal expense. Why? As he puts it, "if you turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to corruption, you are just as guilty of the wrongdoing as the perpetrators." VIPI has never taken payment in exchange for writing or exposing any story and he does not draw a salary from VIPI. And, contrary to Plaintiff's allegations, VIPI has never been hired by Louis Schneider or anyone else to issue a "smear campaign" against Abrams or Plaintiff. Sanson Supp. Decl., ¶ 10.

# IV. ANTI-SLAPP STATUTES DO NOT REQUIRE SPEECH TO BE IN FURTHERANCE OF A RIGHT TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT.

Plaintiff erroneously argues that Defendants' speech is not subject to this anti-SLAPP motion because it was not made in connection with petitioning a government entity to act. (Opp.

12:9-16.) This is a misreading of the statute. As even the Opposition sets out, just two paragraphs above its own argument (at 12:1-4), Nevada's anti-SLAPP statutes provide for dismissal of claims based either on a communication in furtherance of the right to petition, or one based on "the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern." NRS 41.650. The speech at issue falls within the latter prong because, as detailed below, the functioning of family court and our legal system are matters of public concern.

### V. DEFENDANTS' SPEECH INVOLVED MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONERN.

Plaintiff erroneously argues that none of Defendants' speech involved a matter of public concern.

In the seminal U.S. Supreme Court case of <u>Snyder v. Phelps</u>, 131 S.Ct. 1207, 179 L. Ed. 2d 172 (2011), members of a church picketed the funeral of a Marine veteran in Maryland who had died in battle in Iraq. The picket signs stated "God Hates the USA/Thank God for 9/11," "America is Doomed," "Don't Pray for the USA," "Thank God for IEDs," "Thank God for Dead Soldiers," "Pope in Hell," "Priests Rape Boys," "God Hates Fags," "You're Going to Hell," and "God Hates You." The picketing made the news and the father of the fallen Marine subsequently sued the church members for defamation, publicity given to private life, intentional infliction of emotional distress, intrusion upon seclusion, and civil conspiracy.

In that case, the United States Supreme Court defined what constitutes a matter of "public concern." It explained that the First Amendment reflects "a profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open." (citing, New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U. S. 254, 270 (1964).) That is because "speech concerning public affairs is more than self-expression; it is the essence of self-government." Id., citing, Garrison v. Louisiana, 379 U. S. 64, 74-75 (1964). Accordingly, "speech on public issues occupies the highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values, and is entitled to special protection." Connick v. Myers, 461 U. S. 138, 145 (1983) (internal quotation marks omitted).

The Court defined speech of public concern as follows: "[s]peech deals with matters of public concern when it can 'be fairly considered as relating to any matter of political, social, or other concern to the community,' . . . or when it 'is a subject of legitimate news.'" Emphasis

added; citations omitted. The Court also made clear that "[a] statement's arguably 'inappropriate or controversial character... is <u>irrelevant</u> to the question of whether it deals with a matter of public concern'" (citing, <u>Rankin v. McPherson</u>, 483 U. S. 378, 387. Pp. 5-7). In that case, the Court found that the content of the defendants' signs "plainly relates to broad issues of interest to society at large, rather than matters of 'purely private concern'." (<u>Id</u>., at 8.) The court further explained:

While these messages may fall short of refined social or political commentary, the issues they highlight—the political and moral conduct of the United States and its citizens, the fate of our Nation, homosexuality in the military, and scandals involving the Catholic clergy—are matters of public import. The signs certainly convey Westboro's position on those issues, in a manner designed, unlike the private speech in *Dun & Bradstreet*, to reach as broad a public audience as possible.

(<u>Id</u>.)

Each of the statements at issue in this case, fits within the <u>Snyder</u> definition of a matter of public concern:

1. The December 25, 2016 statement on the VIPI website stating "[t]his is the type of hypocrisy we have in our community. People that claim to be for veterans but yet the screw us for profit and power." This statement pertained to and hyperlinked to the 2015 radio interview that Plaintiff gave to VIPI regarding then-pending legislation about Veterans disability pay. Since it pertained to a political issue – a state law – and particularly since Plaintiff had voluntarily injected himself into the legislative debate on that issue by writing to and testifying before the Nevada legislature (See Sanson Initial Decl., Exs. 8, 9), and Plaintiff appeared on the VIPI radio show to discuss his viewpoints on the legislation precisely because it was of public concern (Sanson Initial Decl., ¶ 14a, Ex. 4, p.4), this statement is of "public concern."

Plaintiff's argument that the statement is not of public concern now because it pertains to a 2015 legislation and a 2015 interview is not legally supported. Likewise, Plaintiff's argument that the matter cannot be of public concern because it pertains to Plaintiffs' view on the legislation rather than the legislation itself is wrong. As stated in <u>Snyder</u>, "even if a few of the signs—such as 'You're Going to Hell' and 'God Hates You'—were viewed as containing messages related to Matthew Snyder or the Snyders specifically, that would not change the fact

that the overall thrust and dominant theme of Westboro's demonstration spoke to broader public issues." (Snyder, supra, at p.8) Similarly, the mere fact that Willick's views on the legislation are discussed does not change the political nature of the speech.

- 2. The January 12, 2017 statement, about a federal judge in Virginia finding that Willick committed defamation per se against a law student who was opposing his client in a divorce case, and Willick's colleague, Richard Crane, being suspended from the practice of law for committing sexual coercion on a minor, likewise was of public concern. It concerned a matter of social and general interest. Indeed, Crane's suspension was reported on in Review Journal articles, and Willick being found guilty of defamation per se of an opponent when Willick touts himself as the leading divorce lawyer in the state, is at a minimum of social and general interest and therefore falls within the definition of the Snyder court.
- 3. The January 14, 2017 post also refers to the conviction and suspension of Richard Crane and the fact that Richard Crane appeared to be continuing to work at Willick's offices despite his suspension. The post was accompanied by links to relevant documents showing such employment. Again, given Willick's notoriety, the nature of the Willick Law Group's practice being in family law, the fact that Crane's conviction and suspension was reported in newspapers, this statement was of "public concern" at a minimum because it would be of social or general interest under Snyder.
- 4. The two January 14, 2017 Facebook posts pertaining to Willick's work on the Holyoak case, how he lost his bid to overturn Supreme Court precedent and how he sought \$100,000 for his work on the case is likewise of public concern. It concerned a notorious public figure in the area of divorce law in Nevada and it involved a Supreme Court case in which Willick sought to overturn existing Supreme Court precedent. It therefore necessarily involved an issue of political and social concern overturning existing law that would have broad social ramifications, and the amount of money that the self-proclaimed leading family law lawyer in Nevada charges for his work as petitioned in publicly filed documents.

## VI. PLAINTIFFS HAVE FAILED TO MAKE A PRIMA FACIE CASE OF A PROBABLILITY OF PREVAILING ON THEIR CLAIMS.

### A. DEFENDANTS FAILED TO SHOW A PRIMA FACIE CASE OF DEFAMATION.

First, Plaintiffs misapply <u>Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc.</u>, 118 Nev. 706, 715, 57 P.3d 82, 88 (2202), to argue that each of Defendants' statements are defamatory as a matter of law because they "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." (Opp: 15: 14-16.) Plaintiffs simply ignore that the speech must first be a "statement of fact" and not opinion, must be "false," must not be privileged, and must be made with malice, where as here, the Plaintiff is a public figure. The analysis of whether the statement lowers the esteem of its subject is only relevant once the other elements are established.

Second, Plaintiffs' reliance on <u>Bongiovi v. Sullivan</u>, 138 P.3d 433, 122 Nev. 556 (Nev., 2006) for the proposition that Plaintiffs are not public figures is misplaced. In <u>Bongiovi</u>, the plaintiff was a plastic surgeon, who although well accomplished, had not voluntarily thrust himself into any public debate. As explained by the Court:

[D]octors have been held to be limited-purpose public figures for a particular issue when they have voluntarily come to the forefront of a national or local debate concerning that medical issue or have "affirmatively step[ped] outside of their private realms of practice to attract public attention." Coming to the forefront of a debate has included behavior such as: writing letters to politicians and hiring a private lobbyist and public relations agent, authoring articles in national magazines and appearing on national television shows, testifying before an FDA panel, and 'writing [letters] to newspapers, professional journals and organizations, fellow physicians, and government officials' regarding an issue.

In contrast, a small minority of courts has held that doctors are limited-purpose public figures regardless of whether they have come to the forefront of a debate or a particular issue because the qualifications of doctors are matters of vital importance to the public, or because the doctors have advertised in the yellow pages and received clientele from throughout the United States because of their expertise.

Consistent with the majority of courts, we conclude that a doctor is not a limited-purpose public figure unless that doctor voluntarily comes to the forefront of a national or local debate concerning medical issues or has "affirmatively step[ped] outside of [his] private realm[] of practice to attract public attention."35 We conclude that Sullivan's professional achievements are insufficient to render him a limited-purpose public figure.

### (Emphasis added.)

Here, Plaintiffs have definitively thrust themselves into public debate and have "stepped outside of their private realm of practice to attract public attention." Plaintiff Willick touts his firm as "the premiere Family Law firm in Nevada." He voluntarily thrusts himself in the public eye by submitting written and oral testimony to the Nevada legislature on proposed legislation (Sanson Initial Decl., Exs. 8 and 9) has written dozens of articles on family law issues (see resume, attached as Ex. 8 to Levy Decl. filed with moving papers), has served as an expert witness in dozens of cases (Id.), has written 3 books on family law matters (Levy Decl., Ex. 9), is extensively quoted in the Las Vegas Review Journal and other publications (Levy Decl., Ex. 10), has received local and national awards (Levy Decl., Ex. 8) and makes public appearances in traditional and social media to promote his work and firm. He also appears in an internet video advertisement for the Legal Aid Center in which he indirectly also promotes his firm and his stature in the community. His firm also has a large public billboard directly across the street from family court (Levy Decl., Ex. 12). It cannot seriously be doubted that Willick and his firm are "public figures" for purposes of defamation law, not just because of their career achievements, but also because of their voluntary injection into matters of public discourse.

Third, as public figures, Plaintiffs must prove <u>by clear and convincing evidence</u> that any purportedly defamatory statement was "made with 'actual malice' – that is, with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not." <u>New York Times Co. v. Sullivan</u>, 376 U.S. 254 (1964). Notwithstanding all of Plaintiffs' hyperbole and unsubstantiated claims of extortion, there is simply no admissible <u>evidence</u> of such malice (or extortion).

Plaintiffs seize on Defendants' inadvertent failure to include 2 commas in its January 12, 2017 statement as proof of Defendants malice, purportedly with regard to all the statements. As

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fully explained in Defendants' opening brief, the January 12, 2017 statement was supposed to read as follows: Attorney Marshall [sic] Willick, and his pal convicted of sexually coercion of a minor Richard Crane, was found guilty of defaming a law student in United States District Court Western District..." (Sanson Initial Decl., ¶4b.) Plaintiffs' unexplained claims aside, that is a true statement. Sanson did not notice the comma error at the time of publication and was unaware of the statement's ambiguity at the time that he communicated with Lee Gilford that the statement was true and to do his own research. (Id.).

Yet, Plaintiffs' pointing to the exchange between Sanson and someone he doesn't know named Lee Pudemonhucin Gilford as an indication of malice, actually shows something much different -- that the use of hyperlinks in VIPI's speech had its intended effect of permitting readers to access the supporting documents and make up their own minds. Gilford apparently did just that when he remarked in Plaintiffs' Exhibit 2 that "[n]othing you shared indicates that Willick did anything but employ a nasty bastard" and "you saying something is true, when the evidence you present is..." (remainder of Plaintiff's exhibit 2 was cut off). This falls directly into the "speech based on disclosed facts" that Courts protect when hyperlinks to source materials are provided. See, <u>Jankovic v. Inter'l Crisis Grp.</u>, 429 F.Supp.2d 165, 177 n.8 (DDC 2006) "what little confusion the sentence could possibly cause is easily dispelled by any reader willing to perform minimal research); Adelson v. Harris, 973 F.Supp.2d 471, 485 (SD NY 2013) (applying Nevada law "[p]rotecting defendant who hyperlink to their sources is good public policy, as it fosters the facile dissemination of knowledge on the Internet"); Franklin v. Dynamic Details, Inc., 116 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 375, 379, 10 Cal.Rptr.3d 429 (2004) (no defamation where the emails at issue disclosed the facts upon which the opinions were based by directing the reader to the FCC website via hyperlink.) The exchange shows that readers did not believe that Willick was convicted of child sexual coercion.

Also, contrary to the allegations in the Opposition (at 7:5-11), VIPI in fact did take down the original January 12, 2017 statement, and did in fact distribute the corrected statement via all the same channels as it did the original statement. (Sanson Supp. Decl., ¶ 11.) Plaintiffs claim that their Exhibit 3 shows that the original post is still available online after it was clarified on

January 18, 2017, but although the pages of Exhibit 3 are very fuzzy, they do not appear to corroborate this. In any event, if there are any remaining original version postings on a website that VIPI can control, then VIPI will take it down. To the best of VIPI's knowledge, the original version of the statement is not available to the public on a VIPI controlled internet page. Sanson Supp. Decl., ¶ 11.)

Fourth, Plaintiffs' unsupported argument that Defendants statements do not fall within the Fair Reporting Privilege because VIPI is not a "news media" (Opp., at 16:8-17:2) is irrelevant. The Fair Reporting Privilege applies to the general public as well as to news media. Sahara Gaming Corp. v. Culinary Workers Union Local 226, 115 Nev. 212, 984 P.2d 164, 166 (1999) (the special privilege of absolute immunity from defamation is "given to the news media and the general public to report newsworthy events ..."; emphasis added.) Ironically, Plaintiffs are silent about Gilford's opinion in their own Exhibit 2 in which he states that VIPI "are the media outlet of a state organization representing veterans." Apparently, they value Gilford's opinions when Plaintiffs erroneously think he supports their claims but not when they think he does not.

Further, Plaintiffs' argument that the reporting privilege would not apply in this case because VIPI's reporting is purportedly not "fair" or "impartial" (Opp., 18:2), actually underscores the very protections of our Free Speech rights -- especially from the opinions of those about whom the speech is made! Indeed, one can look to mainstream media for examples of how reporting can be skewed and yet still qualify for First Amendment protections. For example, there are those who believe that Fox News is not "fair and balanced" despite its claims to be so, and that MSNBC news is "far left" despite its claim to be "telling it like it is."

Regardless of such opinions, those stations, as do Defendants, have a constitutional right to free speech and to report and comment on stories and news even though it may be through the prisms of their respective viewpoints and opinions.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Although not relevant, Plaintiffs' statement (oddly placed in this section of their Opposition), that veterans they sued in 2012 for criticizing them paid a multi-million dollar judgment is false. Plaintiff somehow obtained a \$10 million default judgment against one of the out of state, unrepresented, veteran defendants without any justification whatsoever in the order or in the

As stated in <u>Texas v. Johnson</u>, 491 U. S. 397, 414 (1989)., "if there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." Indeed, "the point of all speech protection... is to shield just those choices of content that in someone's eyes are misguided, or even hurtful." <u>Hurley v. Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston, Inc.</u>, 515 U. S. 557, 574 (1995).

Accordingly, Plaintiffs have proffered no evidence they are likely to prevail on a cause of action for defamation.

# B. PLAINTIFFS CANNOT PREVAIL ON THEIR CLAIMS FOR EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, FALSE LIGHT, BUSINESS DISPARAGEMENT AND CONSPIRACY.

Plaintiffs appear to claim in a conclusory fashion that even if Defendants' speech was found to be protected, it would not render Defendants immune from claims of emotional distress, false light, business disparagement and conspiracy. (Opp., 18:9-20:3.) Again, this is false.

### 1. <u>Emotional Distress.</u>

The <u>Snyder</u> court recognized that "[t]he Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment can serve as a defense in state tort suits, including suits for intentional infliction of emotional distress" (citing, <u>Hustler Magazine</u>, <u>Inc. v. Falwell</u>, 485 U. S. 46, 50-51). In the Snyder case, the father of the fallen marine at whose funeral the defendants picketed described the severity of his emotional injuries: "He testified that he is unable to separate the thought of his dead son from his thoughts of Westboro's picketing, and that he often becomes tearful, angry, and physically ill when he thinks about it. ... Expert witnesses testified that Snyder's emotional anguish had resulted in severe depression and had exacerbated preexisting health conditions." Id., at 12-13. Yet, the Supreme Court held:

The jury here was instructed that it could hold Westboro liable for intentional infliction of emotional distress based on a finding that Westboro's picketing was "outrageous." "Outrageousness," however, is a

motion for default, as to the basis for such a large award. Further, Plaintiffs' unsubstantiated allegation that these defendants were "friends" of Sanson is also false. Sanson does not know them and has never met them. Sanson Supp. Decl., ¶ 12.