Electronically Filed 4/5/2019 2:12 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

Electronically Filed Apr 11 2019 08:21 a.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

Case No: A-18-782057-C

Notice is hereby given that Defendant American Gaming Association appeals to the Supreme Court of Nevada from the Decision and Order entered February 26, 2019, notice of which was filed on February 26, 2019, and which defendants James Taylor and Nevada Gaming Control Board appealed from on April 1, 2019, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto.

Jeff Silvestri, Esq. (NSBN 5779) Jason Sifers, Esq. (NSBN 14273) 2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200

Attorneys for Defendant American Gaming

McDONALD (M. CARANO 2300 WEST SAHARA AVENUE. SUITE 1200 • LAS VECAS, NEVADA 89102 PHONE 702.873.4100 • FAX 702.873.9966

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of McDonald Carano LLP, and that on or about the 5th day of April, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **NOTICE OF APPEAL** was electronically served with the Clerk of the Court via the Clark County District Court Electronic Filing Program which will provide copies to all counsel of record registered to receive such electronic notification.

/s/ CaraMia Gerard
An employee of McDonald Carano LLP

4810-4755-0355, v. 1

DAO

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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

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LINDA MARIE BELL 26

DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII 27 28 DR. NICHOLAS G. COLON,

Colon,

VS.

JAMES TAYLOR, NEVADA GAMING CONTROL BOARD, AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION, AND DOES I-XX.

Defendants.

Case No.

A-18-782057-C

Dept. No. XXIX

DECISION AND ORDER

James Taylor, a Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Division of the Gaming Control Board, gave a presentation on scams, cheating, and fraud in casinos. During this presentation, Mr. Taylor presented a picture of Dr. Nicholas G. Colon under a section entitled "Use of a cheating device". Dr. Colon brought a lawsuit against Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board, alleging that they defamed Dr. Colon by at least implying he was a cheater. Defendants James Taylor and Nevada Gaming Control Board brought an Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss Dr. Colon's Complaint. Plaintiff Dr. Nicholas Colon opposed the Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss. The parties made oral arguments on December 20, 2018. I am denying the Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss.

I. Factual and Procedural Background

On October 2, 2018, the Sands Convention Center held the Global Gaming Expo. At this Expo, James Taylor, a Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Division of the Gaming Control Board, gave a presentation on scams, cheating, and fraud in casinos. Mr. Taylor gave this presentation to about 300 people. As part of that presentation, Mr. Taylor showed a short video that depicted a man sitting at a blackjack table holding some sort of device in his hand. The video clip did not show the face of the man, but focused on what the man was holding under the table. Though there is a dispute as to what exactly Mr. Taylor said during the display of the video clip, it is undisputed that Mr. Taylor stated that a cheating device was used in violation of the law. Dr. Colon, who is an author, consultant, and executive addressing and operating in the gaming industry, claims that he was the

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT JUDGE

DEPARTMENT VII

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man in the video. This claim is not disputed. Dr. Colon further contends that the device in his hand was not a cheating device, but was instead a crowd counter. Dr. Colon alleges that many in attendance at Mr. Taylor's presentation recognized him as the man in the video. On the same day, Dr. Colon filed a complaint claiming one count of defamation per se based on Mr. Taylor's depiction of him as a cheater during the presentation.

On December 6, 2018, Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board filed an Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss. Dr. Colon filed an Opposition to on December 17, 2018. Defendants filed a Reply on December 19, 2018. Oral arguments on the motion were heard on December 20, 2018.

II. Discussion

An Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss is governed by NRS 41.660, et seq. First, I must "[d]etermine whether the moving party has established, 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." NRS 41.660(3)(a). Such communications include "written or oral statements made in direct connection with an issue under consideration by a legislative, executive, or judicial body, or any other official proceeding authorized by law." NRS 41.637. Good faith communication is any "communication 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." NRS 41.637(4).

Nevada adopted the California standard for what distinguishes a public interest from a private one:

- (1) "public interest" does not equate with mere curiosity;
- (2) a matter of public interest should be something of concern to a substantial number of people; a matter of concern to a speaker and a relatively small specific audience is not a matter of public interest;
- (3) there should be some degree of closeness between the challenged statements and the asserted public interest—the assertion of a broad and amorphous public interest is not sufficient;
- (4) the focus of the speaker's conduct should be the public interest rather than a mere effort to gather ammunition for another round of private controversy; and
- (5) a person cannot turn otherwise private information into a matter of public interest simply by communicating it to a large number of people.

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII Shapiro v. Welt 389 P.3d 262 268, 133 Nev. Adv. Op. 6 (2017) citing Piping Rock Partners, Inc. v. David Lerner Assocs., Inc., 946 F. Supp.2d 957, 968 (N.D. Cal. 2013) aff''d 609 Fed.Appx. 497 (9th Cir. 2015) citing Weinberg v. Feisel, 110 Cal.App.4th 1122, 2 Cal.Rptr.3d 385, 392-93 (2003).

The only alleged defamation in Dr. Colon's complaint was when Mr. Taylor, during his presentation on cheating at the G2E expo, showed a video clip of Dr. Colon sitting at a blackjack table holding some sort of device in his hand. Mr. Taylor then identified the device as the only counting device that was recovered by the GCB so far that year.

A. Mr. Taylor's presentation was a matter of public concern.

Mr. Taylor's speech was a matter of public concern. Security and the laws surrounding gaming are not a mere curiosity. Gaming is a central pillar of the Las Vegas economy. There are a substantial number of people concerned about such matters, which is evident given the large number of people that listened to Mr. Taylor's speech. There is no assertion of a broad and amorphous public interest, as the use of cheating devices correlate exactly with gaming security. There is no evidence that Mr. Taylor's speech was an effort to do anything other than act in the public interest. Thus, Mr. Taylor's speech was a matter of public interest.

B. Mr. Taylor's presentation was not a good faith communication.

Although Mr. Taylor's speech is a matter of public concern, I cannot find that Mr. Taylor made the communication in good faith by a preponderance of the evidence. Dr. Colon contends that the device in his hand was a crowd counter, not a cheating device. This crowd counter cannot be used to cheat at blackjack because it cannot subtract, only add. This contention is supported by the affidavits of two gaming experts, Michael Aponte and Eliot Jacobson, as well as the affidavit of Dr. Colon. Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board do not dispute that the device in his hand was a crowd counter, and could not be used to cheat at blackjack.

Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board argue that Mr. Taylor did not specifically claim that the crowd counter was a cheating device. Instead, Mr. Taylor simply identified the device as a counting device and stated that it was the only counting device obtained that year. In context, this is not a persuasive argument. Mr. Taylor also discussed Dr. Colon's arrest and discussed Dr. Colon under the section entitled "Use of a cheating device." Mr. Taylor also cited NRS 465.075(1), which

makes it "unlawful to use or possess any computerized electronic or mechanical device . . . to obtain an advantage at playing any game in a licensed gaming establishment."

In order to find good faith communication, I have to find that the communication was truthful or was made without knowledge of its falsehood. The communication that the crowd counter was a cheating device was not truthful. There is no evidence that Mr. Taylor was without knowledge of its falsehood, as Mr. Taylor does not make any such claims in his affidavit. Instead, the evidence shows that Mr. Taylor most likely knew that the crowd counter could not be used as a cheating device, as Dr. Colon provided two separate affidavits supporting this contention. Thus, I find by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Taylor's statements do not constitute a good faith communication.

C. Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute does not violate the right to a trial by jury.

Colon also challenges the constitutionality of NRS 41.660, et seq. as it infringes on the right to a trial by jury as stated in article 1, section 3 of the Nevada Constitution. Colon claims that the statutory scheme calls for the Court to invade into the province of the jury by weighing the evidence and adjudicating matters summarily.

Nevada's current Anti-SLAPP statute was created by the legislature in an effort to protect the exercise of another constitutional right: the First Amendment rights to free speech. S.B. 286, 2013 Leg. Sess., 77th Sess. (Nev. 2013). "Statutes are presumed to be valid [E]very reasonable construction must be resorted to, in order to save a statue from unconstitutionality." Shapiro v. Welt, 133 Nev. Adv. Op. 6, 389 P.3d 262, 267 (2017) (internal quotations omitted). In Shapiro, the Nevada Supreme Court used its discretion to review the constitutionality of Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute. Though it did not address specifically the right to a trial by jury, the court did find the statute constitutional. While this does not foreclose the discussion at hand, it serves as a proper background to my analysis.

Adjudicating matters summarily is not new to the judiciary in this or any jurisdiction. Virtually every jurisdiction in this country, including the highest court, embraces motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss in their respective rules of civil procedure. These rules have been held to be constitutional when pitted against the right to a trial by jury. See Fid. & Deposit

Co. of Maryland v. United States, 187 U.S. 315, 318, 23 S. Ct. 120, 120; see also United States v. Carter, No. 3:15CV161, 2015 WL 9593652, at *7 (E.D. Va. Dec. 31, 2015), aff'd, 669 F. App'x 682 (4th Cir. 2016), and aff'd, 669 F. App'x 682 (4th Cir. 2016)(stating that a right to a trial by jury does not exist until a plaintiff shows a genuine issue of material fact).

Nevada looks to California case law when considering its Anti-SLAPP statute. See <u>John v. Douglas Cty. Sch. Dist.</u>, 125 Nev. 746, 756 (2009); S.B. 444, 2015 Leg. Sess., 78th Sess. (Nev. 2015) at §12.5(2). California considered the constitutionality of Anti-SLAPP statutes in <u>Briggs. V. Eden Council for Hope & Opportunity</u>. 19 Cal. 4th 1106 (1999). In <u>Briggs</u>, the California court found that, because the statute only required a showing of minimal merit as to plaintiff's claims, the statute did not violate the plaintiff's right to trial. <u>Id.</u>

Here, the Anti-SLAPP statute puts the initial burden on the defendant, not the plaintiff. The defendant must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the claim is based upon good faith communication. NRS 411.660(3)(a). After that, the plaintiff must show a minimal merit of their claim, in this case that they have a probability of prevailing on the claim. NRS 411.660(3)(b). The only time that the court considers the evidence and functions like a jury is the first prong of the Anti-SLAPP statute, when it is considering the defendant's burden of proof. When the plaintiff has the burden of proof, the plaintiff needs only a minimal merit as to their claim. As plaintiff needs only a minimal merit, it functions as a special motion for summary judgment. Thus, plaintiff's right to a trial is not impacted by the Anti-SLAPP statute.

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

III. Conclusion

Defendants have not shown by a preponderance of the evidence that Dr. Colon's 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. Thus, I am denying Defendant's Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss.

DATED the day of January 25, 2019.

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

LINDA MARIE BELL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the date of filing, a copy of this Order was electronically served through the Eighth Judicial District Court EFP system or, if no e-mail was provided, by facsimile, U.S. Mail and/or placed in the Clerk's Office attorney folder(s) for:

Name Party	
James Adams, Esq.	
Adams Law Group, Ltd.	
c/o James R. Adams, Esq.	Counsel for Colon
5420 W. Sahara Ave. #202	
Las Vegas, NV 89146	
Robert T. Robbins, Esq.	
1995 Village Center Circle, Suite 190	Counsel for Defendants
Las Vegas, NV 89134	

SYLVIA PERRY

JUDICIAL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, DEPARTMENT VII

AFFIRMATION

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding <u>Decision and Order</u> filed in District Court case number A685807 DOES NOT contain the social security number of any person.

/s/ Linda Marie Bell Date: 01/ /2019 District Court Judge

Electronically Filed 4/5/2019 2:14 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

Case No: A-18-782057-C

CASE APPEAL STATEMENT

American Gaming Association submits the following Case Appeal Statement pursuant to

Identify the judge issuing the decision, judgment, or order appealed from:

The Honorable Linda Marie Bell.

3. Identify each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each

24 appellant:

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ASTA

Jeff Silvestri, Esq. (NSBN 5779)

Jason Sifers, Esq. (NSBN 14273) McDONALD CARANO LLP

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American Gaming Association Jeff Silvestri, Esq. Jason Sifers, Esq. McDonald Carano LLP 2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

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4. Identify each respondent and the name and address of appellate counsel, if known, for each respondent (if the name of a respondent's appellate counsel is unknown, indicate as much and provide the name and address of that respondent's trial counsel):

Dr. Nicholas G. Colon Robert A. Nersesian, Esq. Thea Marie Sankiewicz, Esq. NERSESIAN & SANKIEWICZ 528 South Eighth Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4 is not licensed to practice law in Nevada, and if so, whether the district court granted that attorney permission to appear under SCR 42 (attach a copy of any district court order granting such permission):

All counsel are licensed in the State of Nevada.

6. Indicate whether appellant was represented by appointed or retained counsel in the district court:

Retained counsel.

7. Indicate whether appellant is represented by appointed or retained counsel on appeal:

Retained counsel.

8. Indicate whether appellant was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and the date of entry of the district court order granting such leave:

No.

9. Indicate the date the proceedings commenced in the district court (e.g., date complaint, indictment, information, or petition was filed):

October 2, 2018.

10. Provide a brief description of the nature of the action and result in the district court, including the type of judgment or order being appealed and the relief granted by the district court:

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On October 2, 2018 Plaintiff filed a Complaint alleging a single cause of action of defamation per se. On December 6, 2018, Defendants James Taylor and the Nevada Gaming Control Board filed an Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.660, which the American Gaming Association timely joined on December 14, 2018. On February 26, 2019 the order was entered denying Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss. Defendants James Taylor and Nevada Gaming Control Board timely appealed that denial of the Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.670(4) on April 1, 2019. The American Gaming Association now appeals the same determination.

11. Indicate whether the case has previously been the subject of an appeal to or original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court, and if so, the caption and Supreme Court Docket number of the prior proceeding:

This case has not previously been subject of an appeal or writ.

12. Indicate whether this appeal involves child custody or visitation:

This appeal does not involve child custody or visitation.

13. If this is a civil case, indicate whether this appeal involves the possibility of settlement:

This is a civil case. Settlement is unlikely at this point.

DATED this 5th day of April, 2019.

McDONALD CARANO LLP

By: /s/ Jeff Silvestri Jeff Šilvestri, Esq. (NSBN 5779) Jason Sifers, Esq. (NSBN 14273) 2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

> Attorneys for Defendant American Gaming Association



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of McDonald Carano LLP, and that on or about the 5th day of April, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **CASE APPEAL STATEMENT** was electronically served with the Clerk of the Court via the Clark County District Court Electronic Filing Program which will provide copies to all counsel of record registered to receive such electronic notification.

/s/ CaraMia Gerard
An employee of McDonald Carano LLP

4845-7305-9475, v. 1

CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-782057-C

Nicholas Colon, Plaintiff(s) James Taylor, Defendant(s)

Location: Department 29 Judicial Officer: Jones, David M 8888 Filed on: 10/02/2018

Case Number History:

Cross-Reference Case A782057

Number:

CASE INFORMATION

Case Type: Intentional Misconduct

10/02/2018 Open Status:

DATE **CASE ASSIGNMENT**

Current Case Assignment

Case Number A-18-782057-C Department 29 Court Date Assigned 12/07/2018 Judicial Officer Jones, David M

PARTY INFORMATION

Lead Attorneys **Plaintiff** Colon, Nicholas G.

Nersesian, Robert A. Retained 7023855454(W)

Defendant **American Gaming Association** Silvestri, Jeffrey A.

Retained 7028734100(W)

Nevada Gaming Control Board Haar, Theresa M.

Retained 702-420-2001(W)

Taylor, James Haar, Theresa M.

Retained 702-420-2001(W)

DATE **EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT INDEX**

EVENTS

10/02/2018 Complaint With Jury Demand

Filed By: Plaintiff Colon, Nicholas G. Complaint for Defamation and Jury Demand

10/02/2018 Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure

Filed By: Plaintiff Colon, Nicholas G. Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure

10/12/2018 Summons Electronically Issued - Service Pending

Summons

10/12/2018 Summons Electronically Issued - Service Pending

Summons

CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-782057-C

	CASE NO. A-18-782057-C
10/12/2018	Summons Electronically Issued - Service Pending Summons
10/31/2018	Affidavit of Service Affidavit of Service
10/31/2018	Affidavit of Service Affidavit of Service
10/31/2018	Affidavit of Service Affidavit of Service
12/06/2018	Motion to Dismiss Filed By: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Defendant's Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss
12/07/2018	Notice of Department Reassignment Notice of Department Reassignment
12/07/2018	Certificate of Service Filed by: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Certificate of Service
12/14/2018	Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure
12/14/2018	Joinder To Motion Filed By: Defendant American Gaming Association American Gaming Association's Joinder to Defendants' Anti-Slapp Special Motion to Dismiss
12/17/2018	Opposition Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss
12/17/2018	Declaration Declaration of Dr. Nicholas G. Colon
12/17/2018	Motion to Dismiss Filed By: Defendant American Gaming Association American Gaming Association's Motion to Dismiss Complaint
12/19/2018	Reply Filed by: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Defendants' Reply in Support of Their Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss
01/02/2019	Supplemental Points and Authorities Plaintiff's Supplemental Authorities in Support of Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss
01/04/2019	Opposition Opposition to Defendant American Gaming's Motion to Dismiss
01/08/2019	Response

CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-782057-C

	CASE NO. A-18-/8205/-C
	Filed by: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Defendants' Response to Plaintiff's Supplemental Authorities
01/16/2019	Reply in Support Filed By: Defendant American Gaming Association Reply in Support of American Gaming Association's Motion to Dismiss Complaint
01/22/2019	Stipulation and Order Filed by: Defendant American Gaming Association Stipulation and Order to Continue Hearing on American Gaming Association's Motion to Dismiss Complaint
01/25/2019	Stipulation and Order Filed by: Defendant American Gaming Association Stipulation and Order to Continue Hearing on American Gaming Association's Motion to Dismiss Complaint
01/28/2019	Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order Filed By: Defendant American Gaming Association Notice of Entry of Order to Continue Hearing on American Gaming Association's Motion to Dismiss Complaint
02/26/2019	Decision and Order Decision and Order
02/26/2019	Notice of Entry of Decision and Order Notice of Entry of Decision and Order
02/26/2019	Amended Complaint Filed By: Plaintiff Colon, Nicholas G. Amended Complaint for Defamation and Jury Demand
03/14/2019	Order Order Denying the Motion of American Gaming Association to Dismiss for Failure to State a Claim Upon Which Relief Can be Granted
03/14/2019	Notice of Entry of Order Notice of Entry of Order
03/15/2019	Answer to Amended Complaint Filed By: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Defendants Taylor and Nevada Gaming Control Board's Answer to Plaintiff's Amended Complaint
03/19/2019	Answer to Amended Complaint American Gaming Association's Answer to Amended Complaint for Defamation and Jury Demand
04/01/2019	Notice of Appeal Filed By: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Notice of Appeal
04/01/2019	Case Appeal Statement Filed By: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board

CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-782057-C

	CASE 110. A-10-702037-C
	Case Appeal Statement
04/01/2019	Request Filed by: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Request for Transcript of Proceedings
04/01/2019	Amended Filed By: Defendant Taylor, James; Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Amended Request for Transcript of Proceedings
04/03/2019	Clerk's Refund Request Copy of refund request
04/04/2019	Request for Exemption From Arbitration Petition for Exemption from Arbitration (Amount Greater Than \$50,000), (Issue of Public Policy), and (Unusual Circumstances)
04/05/2019	Notice of Appeal Filed By: Defendant American Gaming Association Notice of Appeal
04/05/2019	Case Appeal Statement Filed By: Defendant American Gaming Association Case Appeal Statement
	<u>HEARINGS</u>
12/07/2018	Minute Order (11:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Kishner, Joanna S.) Recused; Journal Entry Details: Although the Court would and could rule fairly and without bias, recusal is appropriate in the present case in accordance with Canon 2.11(A) of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct to avoid the appearance of impartiality since a member of the Court's family has been represented by one of the counsel listed in the pleadings, the Court, thus, recuses itself from the matter and asks that it be reassigned randomly in accordance with appropriate procedures.;
12/20/2018	Motion to Dismiss (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Bell, Chief Judge) Defendant's Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Denied;
12/20/2018	Joinder (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Bell, Chief Judge) American Gaming Association's Joinder to Defendants' Anti-Slapp Special Motion to Dismiss Denied;
12/20/2018	All Pending Motions (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Bell, Chief Judge) Matter Heard; Journal Entry Details: DEFENDANT'S ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION'S JOINDER TO DEFENDANTS' ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS Mr. Nersesian advised there was a motion filed set to be heard on January 23, 2019 and he preferred these motions be heard together. Ms. Haar noted she preferred to proceed today. COURT ORDERED, matters TRAILED to allow the Court to review the motions. MATTER RECALLED: All parties present as before. Arguments by counsel regarding the merits of the motion. COURT ORDERED, motion UNDER ADVISEMENT.;
02/13/2019	Motion to Dismiss (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Jones, David M)

CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-782057-C

American Gaming Association's Motion to Dismiss Complaint Denied Without Prejudice;

Duplicate Entry

Journal Entry Details:

Court advised that as of this morning, there was still no word from Judge Bell on the Anti-SLAPP. Upon Court's inquiry, Mr. Sifers advised the matter could still be heard today. Mr. Sifers advised that Dr. Colon's case should be dismissed because of the American Gaming Association. Mr. Sifers argued there are no facts in the complaint that would prove the American Gaming Association is not liable for any defamation against Dr. Colon. Mr. Nersesian argued the motion was premature and is inappropriate for dismissal because no cause of action has been found in the complaint. Arguments by counsel. COURT ORDERED, motion DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE. Defense counsel to prepare the order.;

DATE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Defendant American Gaming Association Total Charges Total Payments and Credits Balance Due as of 4/10/2019	470.00 470.00 0.00
Defendant Nevada Gaming Control Board Total Charges Total Payments and Credits Balance Due as of 4/10/2019	247.00 247.00 0.00
Plaintiff Colon, Nicholas G. Total Charges Total Payments and Credits Balance Due as of 4/10/2019	270.00 270.00 0.00
Defendant American Gaming Association Appeal Bond Balance as of 4/10/2019	500.00

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL COVER SHEET

A-18-782057-C Department 31

		County, 1	Nevada	
	Case No.			
	(Assigned by Clerk'	s Office)		
I. Party Information (provide both he	ome and mailing addresses if different)	T		
Plaintiff(s) (name/address/phone):			ant(s) (name/address/phone):	
DR. NICHOLAS	G. COLON	JAMES	S TAYLOR, NEVADA GAMING CONTROL BOARD	
		AMER	ICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION, AND DOES I-XX	
Attorney (name/address/phone):		Attorney	/ (name/address/phone):	
Robert A. Ne	rsesian	(maine, address, phone).		
Nersesian & Sa	ankiewicz			
528 South Eighth Street, Las				
702-385-5				
II. Nature of Controversy (please s	select the one most applicable filing type	below)		
Civil Case Filing Types			745-70-0-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-	
Real Property			Torts	
Landlord/Tenant	Negligence		Other Torts	
Unlawful Detainer	Auto		Product Liability	
Other Landlord/Tenant	Premises Liability		Intentional Misconduct	
Title to Property	Other Negligence		Employment Tort	
Judicial Foreclosure	Malpractice		Insurance Tort	
Other Title to Property	Medical/Dental		Other Tort	
Other Real Property	Legal			
Condemnation/Eminent Domain	Accounting			
Other Real Property	Other Malpractice			
Probate	Construction Defect & Cont	ract	Judicial Review/Appeal	
Probate (select case type and estate value)	Construction Defect		Judicial Review	
Summary Administration	Chapter 40		Foreclosure Mediation Case	
General Administration	Other Construction Defect		Petition to Seal Records	
Special Administration	Contract Case		Mental Competency	
Set Aside	Uniform Commercial Code		Nevada State Agency Appeal	
Trust/Conservatorship	Building and Construction		Department of Motor Vehicle	
Other Probate	Insurance Carrier	Worker's Compensation		
Estate Value	Commercial Instrument	Other Nevada State Agency		
Over \$200,000	Collection of Accounts	Appeal Other		
Between \$100,000 and \$200,000	Employment Contract		Appeal from Lower Court	
Under \$100,000 or Unknown	Other Contract		Other Judicial Review/Appeal	
Under \$2,500				
Civ	il Writ		Other Civil Filing	
Civil Writ			Other Civil Filing	
Writ of Habeas Corpus	Writ of Prohibition		Compromise of Minor's Claim	
Writ of Mandamus	Other Civil Writ		Foreign Judgment	
Writ of Quo Warrant	Baragara di		Other Civil Matters	
	Court filings should be filed using th	e Busines	Enament .	
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10/02/2018			Wals HI I want	
Date		Sign	ature of initiating party or representative	
		Cigil	y or population	

Nevada AOC - Research Statistics Unit Pursuant to NRS 3,275

See other side for family-related case filings.

Electronically Filed 2/26/2019 7:59 AM Steven D. Grierson

CLERK OF THE COURT

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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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DR. NICHOLAS G. COLON,

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LINDA MARIE BENOS 112 GONEL STRING MARIE BENOS 112 AUGUSTA DISTRICT JUDGE 112 AUGUSTA DE LA CONTROL DE LA CONTROL

Colon,

VS.

JAMES TAYLOR, NEVADA GAMING CONTROL BOARD, AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION, AND DOES I-XX,

Defendants.

Case No.

A-18-782057-C

Dept. No.

XXIX

DECISION AND ORDER

James Taylor, a Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Division of the Gaming Control Board, gave a presentation on scams, cheating, and fraud in casinos. During this presentation, Mr. Taylor presented a picture of Dr. Nicholas G. Colon under a section entitled "Use of a cheating device". Dr. Colon brought a lawsuit against Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board, alleging that they defamed Dr. Colon by at least implying he was a cheater. Defendants James Taylor and Nevada Gaming Control Board brought an Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss Dr. Colon's Complaint. Plaintiff Dr. Nicholas Colon opposed the Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss. The parties made oral arguments on December 20, 2018. I am denying the Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss.

I. Factual and Procedural Background

On October 2, 2018, the Sands Convention Center held the Global Gaming Expo. At this Expo, James Taylor, a Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Division of the Gaming Control Board, gave a presentation on scams, cheating, and fraud in casinos. Mr. Taylor gave this presentation to about 300 people. As part of that presentation, Mr. Taylor showed a short video that depicted a man sitting at a blackjack table holding some sort of device in his hand. The video clip did not show the face of the man, but focused on what the man was holding under the table. Though there is a dispute as to what exactly Mr. Taylor said during the display of the video clip, it is undisputed that Mr. Taylor stated that a cheating device was used in violation of the law. Dr. Colon, who is an author, consultant, and executive addressing and operating in the gaming industry, claims that he was the

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INDA MARIE BELL

DEPARTMENT VII

DISTRICT JUDGE

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man in the video. This claim is not disputed. Dr. Colon further contends that the device in his hand was not a cheating device, but was instead a crowd counter. Dr. Colon alleges that many in attendance at Mr. Taylor's presentation recognized him as the man in the video. On the same day, Dr. Colon filed a complaint claiming one count of defamation per se based on Mr. Taylor's depiction of him as a cheater during the presentation.

On December 6, 2018, Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board filed an Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss. Dr. Colon filed an Opposition to on December 17, 2018. Defendants filed a Reply on December 19, 2018. Oral arguments on the motion were heard on December 20, 2018.

II. Discussion

An Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss is governed by NRS 41.660, et seq. First, I must "[d]etermine whether the moving party has established, 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." NRS 41.660(3)(a). Such communications include "written or oral statements made in direct connection with an issue under consideration by a legislative, executive, or judicial body, or any other official proceeding authorized by law." NRS 41.637. Good faith communication is any "communication 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." NRS 41.637(4).

Nevada adopted the California standard for what distinguishes a public interest from a private one:

- (1) "public interest" does not equate with mere curiosity;
- (2) a matter of public interest should be something of concern to a substantial number of people; a matter of concern to a speaker and a relatively small specific audience is not a matter of public interest;
- (3) there should be some degree of closeness between the challenged statements and the asserted public interest—the assertion of a broad and amorphous public interest is not sufficient:
- (4) the focus of the speaker's conduct should be the public interest rather than a mere effort to gather ammunition for another round of private controversy; and
- (5) a person cannot turn otherwise private information into a matter of public interest simply by communicating it to a large number of people.

<u>Shapiro v. Welt</u> 389 P.3d 262 268, 133 Nev. Adv. Op. 6 (2017) <u>citing Piping Rock Partners, Inc. v. David Lerner Assocs., Inc.,</u> 946 F. Supp.2d 957, 968 (N.D. Cal. 2013) <u>aff''d</u> 609 Fed.Appx. 497 (9th Cir. 2015) <u>citing Weinberg v. Feisel</u>, 110 Cal.App.4th 1122, 2 Cal.Rptr.3d 385, 392-93 (2003).

The only alleged defamation in Dr. Colon's complaint was when Mr. Taylor, during his presentation on cheating at the G2E expo, showed a video clip of Dr. Colon sitting at a blackjack table holding some sort of device in his hand. Mr. Taylor then identified the device as the only counting device that was recovered by the GCB so far that year.

A. Mr. Taylor's presentation was a matter of public concern.

Mr. Taylor's speech was a matter of public concern. Security and the laws surrounding gaming are not a mere curiosity. Gaming is a central pillar of the Las Vegas economy. There are a substantial number of people concerned about such matters, which is evident given the large number of people that listened to Mr. Taylor's speech. There is no assertion of a broad and amorphous public interest, as the use of cheating devices correlate exactly with gaming security. There is no evidence that Mr. Taylor's speech was an effort to do anything other than act in the public interest. Thus, Mr. Taylor's speech was a matter of public interest.

B. Mr. Taylor's presentation was not a good faith communication.

Although Mr. Taylor's speech is a matter of public concern, I cannot find that Mr. Taylor made the communication in good faith by a preponderance of the evidence. Dr. Colon contends that the device in his hand was a crowd counter, not a cheating device. This crowd counter cannot be used to cheat at blackjack because it cannot subtract, only add. This contention is supported by the affidavits of two gaming experts, Michael Aponte and Eliot Jacobson, as well as the affidavit of Dr. Colon. Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board do not dispute that the device in his hand was a crowd counter, and could not be used to cheat at blackjack.

Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board argue that Mr. Taylor did not specifically claim that the crowd counter was a cheating device. Instead, Mr. Taylor simply identified the device as a counting device and stated that it was the only counting device obtained that year. In context, this is not a persuasive argument. Mr. Taylor also discussed Dr. Colon's arrest and discussed Dr. Colon under the section entitled "Use of a cheating device." Mr. Taylor also cited NRS 465.075(1), which

makes it "unlawful to use or possess any computerized electronic or mechanical device . . . to obtain an advantage at playing any game in a licensed gaming establishment."

In order to find good faith communication, I have to find that the communication was truthful or was made without knowledge of its falsehood. The communication that the crowd counter was a cheating device was not truthful. There is no evidence that Mr. Taylor was without knowledge of its falsehood, as Mr. Taylor does not make any such claims in his affidavit. Instead, the evidence shows that Mr. Taylor most likely knew that the crowd counter could not be used as a cheating device, as Dr. Colon provided two separate affidavits supporting this contention. Thus, I find by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Taylor's statements do not constitute a good faith communication.

C. Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute does not violate the right to a trial by jury.

Colon also challenges the constitutionality of NRS 41.660, et seq. as it infringes on the right to a trial by jury as stated in article 1, section 3 of the Nevada Constitution. Colon claims that the statutory scheme calls for the Court to invade into the province of the jury by weighing the evidence and adjudicating matters summarily.

Nevada's current Anti-SLAPP statute was created by the legislature in an effort to protect the exercise of another constitutional right: the First Amendment rights to free speech. S.B. 286, 2013 Leg. Sess., 77th Sess. (Nev. 2013). "Statutes are presumed to be valid [E]very reasonable construction must be resorted to, in order to save a statue from unconstitutionality." Shapiro v. Welt, 133 Nev. Adv. Op. 6, 389 P.3d 262, 267 (2017) (internal quotations omitted). In Shapiro, the Nevada Supreme Court used its discretion to review the constitutionality of Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute. Though it did not address specifically the right to a trial by jury, the court did find the statute constitutional. While this does not foreclose the discussion at hand, it serves as a proper background to my analysis.

Adjudicating matters summarily is not new to the judiciary in this or any jurisdiction. Virtually every jurisdiction in this country, including the highest court, embraces motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss in their respective rules of civil procedure. These rules have been held to be constitutional when pitted against the right to a trial by jury. See Fid. & Deposit

JINDA MARIE BELL

DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

Co. of Maryland v. United States, 187 U.S. 315, 318, 23 S. Ct. 120, 120; see also United States v. Carter, No. 3:15CV161, 2015 WL 9593652, at *7 (E.D. Va. Dec. 31, 2015), aff'd, 669 F. App'x 682 (4th Cir. 2016), and aff'd, 669 F. App'x 682 (4th Cir. 2016)(stating that a right to a trial by jury does not exist until a plaintiff shows a genuine issue of material fact).

Nevada looks to California case law when considering its Anti-SLAPP statute. See <u>John v. Douglas Cty. Sch. Dist.</u>, 125 Nev. 746, 756 (2009); S.B. 444, 2015 Leg. Sess., 78th Sess. (Nev. 2015) at §12.5(2). California considered the constitutionality of Anti-SLAPP statutes in <u>Briggs. V. Eden Council for Hope & Opportunity</u>. 19 Cal. 4th 1106 (1999). In <u>Briggs</u>, the California court found that, because the statute only required a showing of minimal merit as to plaintiff's claims, the statute did not violate the plaintiff's right to trial. <u>Id.</u>

Here, the Anti-SLAPP statute puts the initial burden on the defendant, not the plaintiff. The defendant must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the claim is based upon good faith communication. NRS 411.660(3)(a). After that, the plaintiff must show a minimal merit of their claim, in this case that they have a probability of prevailing on the claim. NRS 411.660(3)(b). The only time that the court considers the evidence and functions like a jury is the first prong of the Anti-SLAPP statute, when it is considering the defendant's burden of proof. When the plaintiff has the burden of proof, the plaintiff needs only a minimal merit as to their claim. As plaintiff needs only a minimal merit, it functions as a special motion for summary judgment. Thus, plaintiff's right to a trial is not impacted by the Anti-SLAPP statute.

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

III. Conclusion

Defendants have not shown by a preponderance of the evidence that Dr. Colon's 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. Thus, I am denying Defendant's Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss.

DATED this day of January 25, 2019.

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the date of filing, a copy of this Order was electronically served through the Eighth Judicial District Court EFP system or, if no e-mail was provided, by facsimile, U.S. Mail and/or placed in the Clerk's Office attorney folder(s) for:

Name	Party
James Adams, Esq.	
Adams Law Group, Ltd.	
c/o James R. Adams, Esq.	Counsel for Colon
5420 W. Sahara Ave. #202	
Las Vegas, NV 89146	
Adams Adams, Esq. Adams Law Group, Ltd. c/o James R. Adams, Esq. 5420 W. Sahara Ave. #202 Las Vegas, NV 89146 Robert T. Robbins, Esq. 1995 Village Center Circle, Suite 190 Las Vegas, NV 89134	
1995 Village Center Circle, Suite 190	Counsel for Defendants
Las Vegas, NV 89134	

SYLVIA PERRY JUDICIAL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, DEPARTMENT VII

AFFIRMATION

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding Decision and Order filed in District Court case number A685807 DOES NOT contain the social security number of any person.

/s/ Linda Marie Bell Date: 01/ /2019 District Court Judge

Electronically Filed 2/26/2019 9:45 AM Steven D. Grierson **NOED CLERK OF THE COURT** 1 Robert A. Nersesian 2 Nevada Bar No. 2762 Thea Marie Sankiewicz 3 Nevada Bar No. 2788 **NERSESIAN & SANKIEWICZ** 528 South Eighth Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: 702-385-5454 Facsimile: 702-385-7667 Email: vegaslegal@aol.com Attorneys for Plaintiff 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 DR. NICHOLAS G. COLON, 11 PLAINTIFF,) Case No. A-18-782057-C 12 Dept. No. 29 VS. 13 JAMES TAYLOR, NEVADA GAMING 14 CONTROL BOARD, AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION, AND DOES I-XX, 15 DEFENDANTS. 16 17 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF DECISION AND ORDER 18 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Decision and Order from the Hearing on December 20, 19 2018, was entered in the above-entitled matter on the 26th day of February, 2019. A copy of 21 111 22 111 23 /// 24 /// 25 /// 26 111 27 /// 28

said Decision and Order is attached hereto. 1 2 Dated this 26th day of February, 2019. 3 **NERSESIAN & SANKIEWICZ** 4 /s/ Robert A. Nersesian Robert A. Nersesian 5 Nev. Bar No. 2762 6 Thea M. Sankiewicz Nev. Bar No. 2788 7 528 South Eighth Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 8 Telephone: 702-385-5454 Facsimile: 702-385-7667 9 Email: vegaslegal@aol.com 10 Attorneys for Plaintiff 11 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 I hereby certify that on the 26th day of February, 2019, pursuant to NRCP 5(b) and 13 EDCR 8.05(f), the above referenced **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF DECISION AND ORDER** 14 was served via e-service through the Eighth Judicial District Court e-filing system, and that the 15 date and time of the electronic service is in place of the date and place of deposit in the mail and 16 17 by depositing the same into the U.S. Mail in Las Vegas, Nevada, postage prepaid, addressed as 18 follows: 19 Aaron D. Ford Attorney General 20 Theresa M. Haar (Bar No. 12158) Jeff Silvestri, Esq. (NSBN 5779) 21 Senior Deputy Attorney General Jason Sifers, Esq. (NSBN 14273) Edward L. Magaw (Bar No. 9111) McDONALD CARANO LLP 22 Deputy Attorney General 2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200 Office of the Attorney General Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 23 555 E. Washington Ave., Ste. 3900 jsilvestri@mcdonaldcarano.com Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 jsifers@mcdonaldcarano.com thaar@ag.nv.gov Attorneys for American Gaming 25 emagaw@ag.nv.gov Association Attorneys for Defendants James Taylor 26 and Nevada Gaming Control Board 27 /s/ Rachel Stein An employee of Nersesian & Sankiewicz 28

Nersesian & Sankiewicz

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Electronically Filed 2/26/2019 7:59 AM Steven D. Grierson

CLERK OF THE COURT

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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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DR. NICHOLAS G. COLON,

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LINDA MARIE BENOS 112 GONEL STRING MARIE BENOS 112 AUGUSTA DISTRICT JUDGE 112 AUGUSTA DE LA CONTROL DE LA CONTROL

Colon,

VS.

JAMES TAYLOR, NEVADA GAMING CONTROL BOARD, AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION, AND DOES I-XX,

Defendants.

Case No.

A-18-782057-C

Dept. No.

XXIX

DECISION AND ORDER

James Taylor, a Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Division of the Gaming Control Board, gave a presentation on scams, cheating, and fraud in casinos. During this presentation, Mr. Taylor presented a picture of Dr. Nicholas G. Colon under a section entitled "Use of a cheating device". Dr. Colon brought a lawsuit against Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board, alleging that they defamed Dr. Colon by at least implying he was a cheater. Defendants James Taylor and Nevada Gaming Control Board brought an Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss Dr. Colon's Complaint. Plaintiff Dr. Nicholas Colon opposed the Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss. The parties made oral arguments on December 20, 2018. I am denying the Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss.

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INDA MARIE BELL

DEPARTMENT VII

DISTRICT JUDGE

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The only alleged defamation in Dr. Colon's complaint was when Mr. Taylor, during his presentation on cheating at the G2E expo, showed a video clip of Dr. Colon sitting at a blackjack table holding some sort of device in his hand. Mr. Taylor then identified the device as the only counting device that was recovered by the GCB so far that year.

A. Mr. Taylor's presentation was a matter of public concern.

Mr. Taylor's speech was a matter of public concern. Security and the laws surrounding gaming are not a mere curiosity. Gaming is a central pillar of the Las Vegas economy. There are a substantial number of people concerned about such matters, which is evident given the large number of people that listened to Mr. Taylor's speech. There is no assertion of a broad and amorphous public interest, as the use of cheating devices correlate exactly with gaming security. There is no evidence that Mr. Taylor's speech was an effort to do anything other than act in the public interest. Thus, Mr. Taylor's speech was a matter of public interest.

B. Mr. Taylor's presentation was not a good faith communication.

Although Mr. Taylor's speech is a matter of public concern, I cannot find that Mr. Taylor made the communication in good faith by a preponderance of the evidence. Dr. Colon contends that the device in his hand was a crowd counter, not a cheating device. This crowd counter cannot be used to cheat at blackjack because it cannot subtract, only add. This contention is supported by the affidavits of two gaming experts, Michael Aponte and Eliot Jacobson, as well as the affidavit of Dr. Colon. Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board do not dispute that the device in his hand was a crowd counter, and could not be used to cheat at blackjack.

Mr. Taylor and the Gaming Control Board argue that Mr. Taylor did not specifically claim that the crowd counter was a cheating device. Instead, Mr. Taylor simply identified the device as a counting device and stated that it was the only counting device obtained that year. In context, this is not a persuasive argument. Mr. Taylor also discussed Dr. Colon's arrest and discussed Dr. Colon under the section entitled "Use of a cheating device." Mr. Taylor also cited NRS 465.075(1), which

makes it "unlawful to use or possess any computerized electronic or mechanical device . . . to obtain an advantage at playing any game in a licensed gaming establishment."

In order to find good faith communication, I have to find that the communication was truthful or was made without knowledge of its falsehood. The communication that the crowd counter was a cheating device was not truthful. There is no evidence that Mr. Taylor was without knowledge of its falsehood, as Mr. Taylor does not make any such claims in his affidavit. Instead, the evidence shows that Mr. Taylor most likely knew that the crowd counter could not be used as a cheating device, as Dr. Colon provided two separate affidavits supporting this contention. Thus, I find by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Taylor's statements do not constitute a good faith communication.

C. Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute does not violate the right to a trial by jury.

Colon also challenges the constitutionality of NRS 41.660, et seq. as it infringes on the right to a trial by jury as stated in article 1, section 3 of the Nevada Constitution. Colon claims that the statutory scheme calls for the Court to invade into the province of the jury by weighing the evidence and adjudicating matters summarily.

Nevada's current Anti-SLAPP statute was created by the legislature in an effort to protect the exercise of another constitutional right: the First Amendment rights to free speech. S.B. 286, 2013 Leg. Sess., 77th Sess. (Nev. 2013). "Statutes are presumed to be valid [E]very reasonable construction must be resorted to, in order to save a statue from unconstitutionality." Shapiro v. Welt, 133 Nev. Adv. Op. 6, 389 P.3d 262, 267 (2017) (internal quotations omitted). In Shapiro, the Nevada Supreme Court used its discretion to review the constitutionality of Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute. Though it did not address specifically the right to a trial by jury, the court did find the statute constitutional. While this does not foreclose the discussion at hand, it serves as a proper background to my analysis.

Adjudicating matters summarily is not new to the judiciary in this or any jurisdiction. Virtually every jurisdiction in this country, including the highest court, embraces motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss in their respective rules of civil procedure. These rules have been held to be constitutional when pitted against the right to a trial by jury. See Fid. & Deposit

JINDA MARIE BELL

DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

Co. of Maryland v. United States, 187 U.S. 315, 318, 23 S. Ct. 120, 120; see also United States v. Carter, No. 3:15CV161, 2015 WL 9593652, at *7 (E.D. Va. Dec. 31, 2015), aff'd, 669 F. App'x 682 (4th Cir. 2016), and aff'd, 669 F. App'x 682 (4th Cir. 2016)(stating that a right to a trial by jury does not exist until a plaintiff shows a genuine issue of material fact).

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Here, the Anti-SLAPP statute puts the initial burden on the defendant, not the plaintiff. The defendant must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the claim is based upon good faith communication. NRS 411.660(3)(a). After that, the plaintiff must show a minimal merit of their claim, in this case that they have a probability of prevailing on the claim. NRS 411.660(3)(b). The only time that the court considers the evidence and functions like a jury is the first prong of the Anti-SLAPP statute, when it is considering the defendant's burden of proof. When the plaintiff has the burden of proof, the plaintiff needs only a minimal merit as to their claim. As plaintiff needs only a minimal merit, it functions as a special motion for summary judgment. Thus, plaintiff's right to a trial is not impacted by the Anti-SLAPP statute.

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

III. Conclusion

Defendants have not shown by a preponderance of the evidence that Dr. Colon's 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. Thus, I am denying Defendant's Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss.

DATED this day of January 25, 2019.

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

LINDA MARIE BELL DISTRICT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VII

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the date of filing, a copy of this Order was electronically served through the Eighth Judicial District Court EFP system or, if no e-mail was provided, by facsimile, U.S. Mail and/or placed in the Clerk's Office attorney folder(s) for:

Name	Party
James Adams, Esq.	
Adams Law Group, Ltd.	
c/o James R. Adams, Esq.	Counsel for Colon
5420 W. Sahara Ave. #202	
Las Vegas, NV 89146	
Adams Adams, Esq. Adams Law Group, Ltd. c/o James R. Adams, Esq. 5420 W. Sahara Ave. #202 Las Vegas, NV 89146 Robert T. Robbins, Esq. 1995 Village Center Circle, Suite 190 Las Vegas, NV 89134	
1995 Village Center Circle, Suite 190	Counsel for Defendants
Las Vegas, NV 89134	

SYLVIA PERRY JUDICIAL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, DEPARTMENT VII

AFFIRMATION

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding Decision and Order filed in District Court case number A685807 DOES NOT contain the social security number of any person.

/s/ Linda Marie Bell Date: 01/ /2019 District Court Judge

A-18-782057-C

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

A-18-782057-C Nicholas Colon, Plaintiff(s)
vs.
James Taylor, Defendant(s)

December 07, 2018 11:00 AM Minute Order

HEARD BY: Kishner, Joanna S. **COURTROOM:** Chambers

COURT CLERK: Tena Jolley

RECORDER:

REPORTER:

PARTIES PRESENT:

JOURNAL ENTRIES

- Although the Court would and could rule fairly and without bias, recusal is appropriate in the present case in accordance with Canon 2.11(A) of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct to avoid the appearance of impartiality since a member of the Court's family has been represented by one of the counsel listed in the pleadings, the Court, thus, recuses itself from the matter and asks that it be reassigned randomly in accordance with appropriate procedures.

PRINT DATE: 04/10/2019 Page 1 of 3 Minutes Date: December 07, 2018

A-18-782057-C

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Intentional Misconduct

COURT MINUTES

December 20, 2018

A-18-782057-C

Nicholas Colon, Plaintiff(s)

VS.

James Taylor, Defendant(s)

December 20, 2018

9:00 AM

All Pending Motions

HEARD BY: Bell, Chief Judge

COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 15A

COURT CLERK:

Natalie Ortega

RECORDER:

Melissa Murphy-Delgado

REPORTER:

PARTIES

PRESENT:

Haar, Theresa M. Attorney Nersesian, Robert A. Attorney

Silvestri, Jeffrey A. Attorney

JOURNAL ENTRIES

- DEFENDANT'S ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION'S JOINDER TO DEFENDANTS' ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

Mr. Nersesian advised there was a motion filed set to be heard on January 23, 2019 and he preferred these motions be heard together. Ms. Haar noted she preferred to proceed today. COURT ORDERED, matters TRAILED to allow the Court to review the motions.

MATTER RECALLED: All parties present as before. Arguments by counsel regarding the merits of the motion. COURT ORDERED, motion UNDER ADVISEMENT.

PRINT DATE: 04/10/2019 Page 2 of 3 Minutes Date: December 07, 2018

A-18-782057-C

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Intentional Misconduct

COURT MINUTES

February 13, 2019

A-18-782057-C

Nicholas Colon, Plaintiff(s)

VS.

James Taylor, Defendant(s)

February 13, 2019

9:00 AM

Motion to Dismiss

HEARD BY: Jones, David M

COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 15A

COURT CLERK: Nancy Maldonado

RECORDER:

Melissa Murphy-Delgado

REPORTER:

PARTIES

PRESENT: Haar, Theresa M.

Nersesian, Robert A. Attorney Sifers, Jason B Attorney Silvestri, Jeffrey A. Attorney

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Attorney

- Court advised that as of this morning, there was still no word from Judge Bell on the Anti-SLAPP. Upon Court's inquiry, Mr. Sifers advised the matter could still be heard today. Mr. Sifers advised that Dr. Colon's case should be dismissed because of the American Gaming Association. Mr. Sifers argued there are no facts in the complaint that would prove the American Gaming Association is not liable for any defamation against Dr. Colon. Mr. Nersesian argued the motion was premature and is inappropriate for dismissal because no cause of action has been found in the complaint. Arguments by counsel. COURT ORDERED, motion DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE. Defense counsel to prepare the order.

PRINT DATE: 04/10/2019 Page 3 of 3 Minutes Date: December 07, 2018

Certification of Copy

State of Nevada
County of Clark
SS

I, Steven D. Grierson, the Clerk of the Court of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, State of Nevada, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the hereinafter stated original document(s):

NOTICE OF APPEAL; CASE APPEAL STATEMENT; DISTRICT COURT DOCKET ENTRIES; CIVIL COVER SHEET; DECISION AND ORDER; NOTICE OF ENTRY OF DECISION AND ORDER; DISTRICT COURT MINUTES

DR. NICHOLAS G. COLON,

Plaintiff(s),

VS.

JAMES TAYLOR; NEVADA GAMING CONTROL BOARD; AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION,

Defendant(s),

now on file and of record in this office.

Case No: A-18-782057-C

Dept No: XXIX

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto Set my hand and Affixed the seal of the Court at my office, Las Vegas, Nevada This 10 day of April 2019.

Steven D. Grierson, Clerk of the Court

Amanda Hampton, Deputy Clerk

DATE	INVOICE NUMBER	MEMO		BALANCE
)4/05/2019	JAS/040519			
			250.00	
		JAS / 19698.2 - Filing fees for Supreme Court re Appeal: A-18-782057-C		
CHECK DATE	CHECK NUMBER			
04/05/2019	000028190		TOTAL	250.00

