IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

INDICATE FULL CAPTION:

STEVE SANSON; ROB LAUER, Appellants,

v.

LAWRA KASSEE BULEN, Respondent

No.	82393 Elec	tronically Filed
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GENERAL INFORMATION

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

WARNING

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

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

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

1. Judicial District Eighth	Department 5	
County Clark	Judge Hon. Veronica Barisich	
District Ct. Case No. A-18-784807-C		
2. Attorney filing this docketing statement	t:	
Attorney Adam J. Breeden	Telephone <u>702-819-7770</u>	
Firm Breeden & Associates, PLLC		
Address 376 E. Warm Springs Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119		
Client(s) Steve Sanson and Rob Lauer (Defend	ants/ Appellants)	
If this is a joint statement by multiple appellants, add the names of their clients on an additional sheet accompfiling of this statement.		
3. Attorney(s) representing respondents(s)):	
Attorney Brandon L. Phillips, Esq.	Telephone (702) 795-0097	
Firm Brandon L. Phillips, Attorney at Law, PI	LLC	
Address 1455 E. Tropicana Avenue, Suite 750 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119		
Client(s) Lawra Kassee Bulen (Plaintiff/ Respo	endent)	
Attorney	Telephone	
Firm		
Address		
Client(s)		

4. Nature of disposition below (check all that apply):			
☐ Judgment after bench trial	🗷 Dismissal:		
☐ Judgment after jury verdict	☐ Lack of jurisdiction		
☐ Summary judgment	☐ Failure to state a claim		
☐ Default judgment	☐ Failure to prosecute		
☐ Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief	Tother (specify): Anti-SLAPP dismissal		
☐ Grant/Denial of injunction	☐ Divorce Decree:		
☐ Grant/Denial of declaratory relief	\square Original \square Modification		
☐ Review of agency determination	$\hfill \square$ Other disposition (specify):		
5. Does this appeal raise issues conce	rning any of the following?		
☐ Child Custody			
☐ Venue			
☐ Termination of parental rights			
6. Pending and prior proceedings in this court. List the case name and docket number of all appeals or original proceedings presently or previously pending before this court which are related to this appeal:			
This appeal concerns the District Court's filed an Anti-SLAPP motion against the I	denial of sanctions after Defendants successfully Plaintiff.		
The Plaintiff filed an appeal after the original Anti-SLAPP motion was granted. That appeal is currently pending as Bulen v. Lauer & Sanson Nevada Supreme Court case $\#$ 81854			
7. Pending and prior proceedings in other courts. List the case name, number and court of all pending and prior proceedings in other courts which are related to this appeal (e.g., bankruptcy, consolidated or bifurcated proceedings) and their dates of disposition:			
None.			

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

This was an action brought by Ms. Bulen which claimed that Mr. Sanson and Mr. Lauer published several articles online that resulted in defamation of her character. Mr. Sanson and Mr. Lauer filed their Special Motion to Dismiss Ms. Bulen's Complaint under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP laws, which was granted.

Subsequently, the District Court heard Defendant's Motion for Fees and Sanctions under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statutes. The District Court denied the sanctions and Defendants appeal that denial and maintain an abuse of discretion in denying said sanctions.

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

Mr. Sanson and Mr. Lauer appeal the District Court's Order denying their motion for additional sanctions in the form of an award of \$10,000 per person under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP laws.

This appeal presents a novel issue of law as to what legal standard and what factors the District Court should consider when determining whether the \$10,000 discretionary sanction under NRS 41.670(1)(b) should be awarded. There is currently no guidance for the District Courts on this issue of law.

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

Appellants and their counsel are not aware of any currently pending appeals raising the same or similar issues specifically as to the \$10,000 sanction under NRS 41.670(1)(b).

the state, any stat	al issues. If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, the clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44	
▼ N/A		
☐ Yes		
\square No		
If not, explain:		
12. Other issues	. Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?	
☐ Reversal of w	rell-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))	
☐ An issue aris	ing under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions	
🗷 A substantial issue of first impression		
☐ An issue of p	ablic policy	
\Box An issue whe court's decision	re en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this	
☐ A ballot ques	tion	
If so, explain		
	This appeal presents a novel issue of law as to what legal standard and what factors the District Court should consider when determining whether the \$10,000 discretionary sanction under NRS 41.670(1)(b) should be awarded upon the granting of an Anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss. There is currently no guidance for the District Courts on this issue of law.	

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

Appellants believe this Appeal raises "as a principal issue a question of statewide public importance" as there is presently no law or guidance from any of Nevada's higher courts as to the legal standard and factors the District Courts must consider when determining whether the \$10,000 sanction under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP laws should be granted.

14. Trial. If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last?	
Was it a bench or jury trial?	

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

Appellants and their counsel are unaware of any reason that any Justice or Judge of the Court of Appeals would have to disqualify or recuse themselves from hearing this appeal.

TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

16. Date of entry of	written judgment or order appealed from 12/18/2020
If no written judg seeking appellate	ment or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for review:
17. Date written no	tice of entry of judgment or order was served 12/21/2020
Was service by:	
\square Delivery	
▼ Mail/electronic	c/fax
18. If the time for fi (NRCP 50(b), 52(b),	iling the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion , or 59)
(a) Specify the the date of f	type of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and filing.
☐ NRCP 50(b)	Date of filing
☐ NRCP 52(b)	Date of filing
\square NRCP 59	Date of filing
	pursuant to NRCP 60 or motions for rehearing or reconsideration may toll the a notice of appeal. See AA Primo Builders v. Washington, 126 Nev, 245 0).
(b) Date of entr	ry of written order resolving tolling motion
(c) Date writte:	n notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served
Was service	by:
\square Delivery	
☐ Mail	

19. Date notice of appeal filed 01/20/2021
If more than one party has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each notice of appeal was filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:
Only one party has filed the Notice of Appeal.
20. Specify statute or rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other
NRAP 4(a)(1) (within 30 days of written notice of entry)
SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY
21. Specify the statute or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review the judgment or order appealed from: (a)
\square NRAP 3A(b)(1) \square NRS 38.205
□ NRAP 3A(b)(2) □ NRS 233B.150
□ NRAP 3A(b)(3) □ NRS 703.376
Cother (specify) NRAP 3A(b)(8)
(b) Explain how each authority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order:

22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court: (a) Parties: Lawra Kassee Bulen - Plaintiff
Steve Sanson and Rob Lauer - Defendants
(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, e.g., formally dismissed, not served, or other:All parties in the district court are parties to the appeal.
23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, or third-party claims and the date of formal disposition of each claim. Plaintiff alleged Defamation and this claim was dismissed by a Special Motion to Dismiss under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP law on August 21, 2020. Defendants then filed a motion for fees and sanctions under the same Anti-SLAPP law which was on December
24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below? Yes
 □ No 25. If you answered "No" to question 24, complete the following: (a) Specify the claims remaining pending below:

(b) Specify the parties remaining below:
(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?
\square Yes
□ No
(d) Did the district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), that there is no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of judgment?
\square Yes
□ No
26. If you answered "No" to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):
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27. Attach file-stamped copies of the following documents:

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

VERIFICATION

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

Steve Sanson and Rob Lauer Name of appellant	Adam J. Breeden Name of counsel of record
2/22/2021 Date	Signature of counsel of record
Clark County, Nevada State and county where signed	
CERTIFIC	ATE OF SERVICE
completed docketing statement upon all co By personally serving it upon him/ By mailing it by first class mail wi	her; or th sufficient postage prepaid to the following nd addresses cannot fit below, please list names
Brandon L. Phillips, Esq. 1455 E. Tropicana Avenue, Suite 750 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119	
Dated this 22nd day of Fe	Signature , 2021

Electronically Filed 11/20/2018 11:23 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

in Clark County, Nevada.

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4. The true names and capacities of Defendants named herein as DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X inclusive, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, are presently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names; and when the true names and capacities of DOES I through X, inclusive and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive are discovered, Plaintiff will ask leave to amend this Complaint to substitute the true names of said Defendants. Plaintiff is informed believes and therefore alleges that Defendants so designated herein are responsible in some manner for the events and occurrences contained in this action.

- 5. Plaintiff is a campaign manager for Republican candidates and a real estate agent. Plaintiff's career is dependent upon her reputation in the community and with the Republican party.
 - 6. Defendant Lauer is a political writer.
- 7. Defendant Sanson is the President of Veterans in Politics International, Inc. and the author of multiple defamatory articles written about Plaintiff and posted on the website for Veterans in Politics.
 - 8. Plaintiff has never met Defendant Sanson.
- 9. Plaintiff met Defendant Lauer on or about March 20, 2018 at the Clark County Republican Party ("CCRP") meeting at Elks Lodge. Defendant was not a member of the CCRP. At the event the Defendant asked the Plaintiff to participate in and screen test for a show. On or about March 22, 2018 Defendant requested that Plaintiff meet to discuss the show. Plaintiff met with the Defendant but declined to participate in the show. During the parties' meeting the Defendant made sexual passes at the Plaintiff and Plaintiff explained to Defendant that she did not want to be in a relationship.
- 10. On or about April 9, 2018 Defendant Lauer called Plaintiff four or five times during the course of the day. On that same day, Defendant then showed up at the Clark County

Platform meeting-knowing that Plaintiff would be in attendance. Plaintiff and Defendant spoke that night and during their conversation Defendant asked Plaintiff out to dinner several times. Plaintiff declined each of the Defendant's requests.

- 11. Defendant Lauer published a derogatory article online about Plaintiff's committee. Upon discovering the article, Plaintiff immediately contacted the Defendant and expressed her disapproval of the article and its posting. Defendant then removed the article but shortly thereafter published an article with false and defamatory information personally attacking the Plaintiff.
- 12. Plaintiff attempted to maintain a friendship with Defendant Lauer; however, his behavior became erratic and made the Plaintiff feel threatened which resulted in Plaintiff applying for a protective order.
- 13. On or about July 10, 2018 Plaintiff and Defendant Lauer appeared at the hearing for the temporary protective order and through their respective counsels agreed to attempt to resolve their issues without having a protective order issued.
- 14. On or about August 8th, 2018 Defendant Lauer instructed his friend and client Steve Sanson to publish a defamatory article Defendant had written about the Plaintiff, titled, *Kassee Bulen, Political Gypsy?*. This article (hereafter "Political Gypsy Article") was originally written by Steve Sanson and posted as an article on Veterans in Politics website https://veteransinpolitics.org/2018/08/kassee-bulen-political-gypsy/. Mr. Sanson and Mr. Lauer then shared the article with the public, on several social media websites, 26 Facebook Republican and military groups and many of Plaintiff's friends on Facebook.
- 15. The Political Gypsy Article was an attack on Plaintiff's suitability to act a member of the CCRP and act as a campaign manager for candidates. This Article clearly was drafted in an attempt to defame Ms. Bulen and make it appear as though she is unsuitable to represent political candidates.

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16. The Political Gypsy Article contained several false facts, including but not limited to: Bulen Strategies is not a licensed lawful business in the State of Nevada. Attached as Exhibit 1 please find the Nevada State Business License for Lawra Kassee Bulen along with the Fictitious Firm Name Certificate of Business; Plaintiff was convicted of assault- the charges referenced in the Article were dismissed against Plaintiff and her record was sealed and the Order sealing this record was deemed confidential by the Court as was Plaintiff's record; Plaintiff was chased out of Republican Party groups in Arizona and St. George and that several married men accused Ms. Bulen of trying to extort money out of them-Plaintiff has never been charged with extortion.

On or about August 13th, 2018 Defendant instructed his friend and client Steve 17. publish a second defamatory article titled, KASSEE BULEN UNDER Sanson to INVESTIGATION AFTER BEING CHARGED WITH ETHICS VIOLATIONS IN COMPLAINT FILED WITH GLVAR. This Article (hereafter "Ethics Article") was originally written by Steve website **Politics** Veterans in article on posted an and Sanson https://veteransinpolitics.org/2018/08/kassee-bulen-under-investigation-after-being-chargedwith-ethics-violations-in-complaint-filed-with-glvar/. Mr. Sanson and Mr. Lauer then shared the article with the public, on several social media websites, 24 Facebook Republican and military groups and many of Plaintiff's friends on Facebook. The Ethics Article was also posted in Defendant Lauer's Facebook group Vegas Real Estate Magazine.

- 18. The Ethics Article article was an attack on Plaintiff's real estate career and called into question her suitability for her position as a real estate agent- the name of the Ethics Article itself contains false and defamatory information about Plaintiff.
- 19. Again, the Ethics Article contains several defamatory and false facts, including but not limited to: "An ethics complaint was filed this week with the Great Las Vegas Association of Realtors against Lawra Kassee Bulen." (Ms. Bulen has never been investigated

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records Kassee Bulen's company, Bulen Strategies, is not a licensed lawful business in the state of Nevada." Again please see Exhibit 1; Defendants claim Plaintiff represented herself as an expert in the article by NBC titled HOME SWEET HOME: Top 5 hottest zip codes for buying & selling in Las Vegas located at https://news3lv.com/news/local/home-sweet-home-top-5-hottestzip-codes-for-buying-and-selling-in-las-vegas. At no time in the video does Plaintiff state or represent that she is an expert. 15 On or about August 20, 2018 Defendant Lauer posted in his Facebook group, 20. 16 Trump Victory Team, a video he made from the audition screen test footage. The video was 17 titled KASSEE BULEN ATTACKS PRESIDENT TRUMP (hereafter "Video"). In the Video 18 Defendant Lauer attempted to have Plaintiff speak about the Stormy Daniels affair. Mr. Lauer 19 heavily edited the video to make it sound like Plaintiff made derogatory statements about 20 21

by the GLVAR or the State of Nevada Real Estate Division). Attached as Exhibit 2 please find

a record search conducted by the Administration Section Manager of NVRED evidencing that

no complaints have been filed against Plaintiff's license. Further, attached as Exhibit 3 you will

find an email from GLVAR's general counsel evidencing that not only have no complaints been

received against Plaintiff but that GLVAR is also investigating the Article. Defendants went so

far as to post a copy of a fake complaint in the Article; the Article moves on to state that

"according to the Nevada Secretary of State's official website and Clark County business

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President Trump.

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was also shared with several other individuals and Facebook groups. The sharing of the Video

caused several people to share the Video with others and with defamatory statements such as

"Republican Never-Trumper attacks President Trump over Stormy Daniels alleged affair" It is

clear that Defendant Lauer chose to author, edit and share this Video in an attempt to make it

appear as though Plaintiff is unfit to run political campaigns, lower Plaintiff's reputation in the

The Video was not only posted by Mr. Lauer's Trump Victory Team page but

community and call others to make defamatory statements against her in an attempt to prevent Plaintiff from working in the Republican Party.

- 22. Defendant Lauer has continued to send Plaintiff harassing text messages from different numbers pretending to be different people. On or about August 22, 2018 through August 24, 2018 Plaintiff received harassing text messages from a person who she believes to be Defendant Lauer bating her for information that could be used to defame her and stating, among other things, that Plaintiff would be politically destroyed, Plaintiff would never work for any political candidate ever again, stating that if she cared about the party she would play nice with Defendant Lauer. Please see the text messages attached hereto as Exhibit 4.
 - 23. The day after sending these threating text messages, Defendant Lauer wrote and posted an article for 360 News Las Vegas (hereafter "360 Article") wherein Defendant invented a fictitious "campaign source" so that he could yet again the Plaintiff's character; essentially calling Plaintiff a liar and questioning her credibility. This was obviously done so that others reading the 360 Article would believe Plaintiff to be a liar.
 - 24. On or about August 27, 2018 Defendant Lauer called Plaintiff from a blocked number making vague threats about "kicking someone's ass" Plaintiff hung up on Defendant Lauer and he attempted to call her back.
 - 25. On or about October 2, 2018 Plaintiff's counsel sent correspondence to the Defendants demanding that they remove the Political Gyspy Article, Ethics Article, 360 Article and Video and providing evidence to the Defendants that their statements were false; however, Defendants have yet to remove the articles and video from their websites and social media pages. Please see the demand letters attached hereto as Exhibit 5. Also attached as Exhibit 6 please see evidence that the articles and video have not been removed.

26. Despite repeated requests to leave Plaintiff alone Defendant Lauer continues to threaten and harass the Plaintiff. Attached as Exhibit 7 is a text exchange between Defendant Lauer and Cheryl Prater wherein Defendant Lauer implies he will continue to harass Plaintiff.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Defamation as to all Defendants)

- 27. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 26 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 28. Defendants made several false and defamatory statements concerning Plaintiff by authoring, posting and sharing the Political Gyspy Article, Ethics Article and Video.
- 29. The Political Gypsy Article contained several false facts, including but not limited to: Bulen Strategies is not a licensed lawful business in the State of Nevada, attached as Exhibit 1 please find the Nevada State Business License for Lawra Kassee Bulen along with the Fictitious Firm Name Certificate of Business; Plaintiff was convicted of assault- the charges referenced in the Article were dismissed against Plaintiff and her record was sealed and the Order sealing this record was deemed confidential by Court as was Plaintiff's record; Plaintiff was chased out of Republican Party groups in Arizona and St. George and that several married men accused Ms. Bulen of trying to extort money out of them-Plaintiff has never been charged with extortion.
 - 30. The Ethics Article contains several defamatory and false facts, including but not limited to: "An ethics complaint was filed this week with the Great Las Vegas Association of Realtors against Lawra Kassee Bulen." (Ms. Bulen has never been investigated by the GLVAR or the State of Nevada Real Estate Division). Attached as Exhibit 2 please find a record search conducted by the Administration Section Manager of NVRED evidencing that no complaints have been filed against Plaintiff's license. Further, attached as Exhibit 3 you will find an email from GLVAR's general counsel evidencing that not only have no complaints been received against Plaintiff but that GLVAR is also investigating the Article. Defendants went so far as to

post a copy of a fake complaint in the Article; the Article moves on to state that "according to the Nevada Secretary of State's official website and Clark County business records Kassee Bulen's company, Bulen Strategies, is not a licensed lawful business in the state of Nevada." Again please see Exhibit 1; Defendants claim Plaintiff represented herself as an expert in the article by NBC titled HOME SWEET HOME: Top 5 hottest zip codes for buying & selling in Las Vegas located at https://news3lv.com/news/local/home-sweet-home-top-5-hottest-zip-codes-for-buying-and-selling-in-las-vegas. At no time in the video does Plaintiff state or represent that she is an expert.

- Daniels affair. Mr. Lauer heavily edited the video to make it sound like Plaintiff was make derogatory statements about President Trump. Defendant Lauer then posted the Video to Defendant Lauer's Trump Victory Team page but was also shared with several other individuals and Facebook groups. The sharing of the Video caused several people to share the Video with others and with defamatory statements such as "Republican Never-Trumper attacks President Trump over Stormy Daniels alleged affair" It is clear that Defendant Lauer chose to author, edit and share this Video in an attempt to make it appear as though Plaintiff is unfit to run political campaigns, lower Plaintiff's reputation in the community and call others to make defamatory statements against her in an attempt to prevent Plaintiff from working in the Republican Party.
- 32. Defendant Lauer has continued to send Plaintiff harassing text messages from different numbers pretending to be different people. On or about August 22, 2018 through August 24, 2018 Plaintiff received harassing text messages from a person who she believes to be Defendant Lauer bating her for information that could be used to defame her and stating, among other things, that Plaintiff would be politically destroyed, Plaintiff would never work for any political candidate ever again, stating that if she cared about the party she would play nice with Defendant Lauer. Please see the text messages attached hereto as Exhibit 4.

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Firm Name Certificate of Business; Plaintiff was convicted of assault- the charges referenced in the Article were dismissed against Plaintiff and her record was sealed and the Order sealing this record was deemed confidential by Court as was Plaintiff's record; Plaintiff was chased out of Republican Party groups in Arizona and St. George and that several married men accused Ms. Bulen of trying to extort money out of them-Plaintiff has never been charged with extortion.

The Ethics Article contains several defamatory and false facts, including but not 43. limited to: "An ethics complaint was filed this week with the Great Las Vegas Association of Realtors against Lawra Kassee Bulen." (Ms. Bulen has never been investigated by the GLVAR or the State of Nevada Real Estate Division). Attached as Exhibit 2 please find a record search conducted by the Administration Section Manager of NVRED evidencing that no complaints have been filed against Plaintiff's license. Further, attached as Exhibit 3 you will find an email from GLVAR's general counsel evidencing that not only have no complaints been received against Plaintiff but that GLVAR is also investigating the Article. Defendants went so far as to post a copy of a fake complaint in the Article; the Article moves on to state that "according to the Nevada Secretary of State's official website and Clark County business records Kassee Bulen's company, Bulen Strategies, is not a licensed lawful business in the state of Nevada." Again please see Exhibit 1; Defendants claim Plaintiff represented herself as an expert in the article by 19 NBC titled HOME SWEET HOME: Top 5 hottest zip codes for buying & selling in Las Vegas located at https://news3lv.com/news/local/home-sweet-home-top-5-hottest-zip-codes-for-buying-21 and-selling-in-las-vegas. At no time in the video does Plaintiff state or represent that she is an expert. 24

In the Video Defendant Lauer attempted to have Plaintiff speak about the Stormy 44. Daniels affair. Mr. Lauer heavily edited the video to make it sound like Plaintiff made derogatory statements about President Trump. Defendant Lauer then posted the Video to Defendant Lauer's Trump Victory Team page but was also shared with several other individuals

and Facebook groups. The sharing of the Video caused several people to share the Video with others and with defamatory statements such as "Republican Never-Trumper attacks President Trump over Stormy Daniels alleged affair" It is clear that Defendant Lauer chose to author, edit and share this Video in an attempt to make it appear as though Plaintiff is unfit to run political campaigns, lower Plaintiff's reputation in the community and call others to make defamatory statements against her in an attempt to prevent Plaintiff from working in the Republican Party.

- different numbers pretending to be different people. On or about August 22, 2018 through August 24, 2018 Plaintiff received harassing text messages from a person who she believes to be Defendant Lauer bating her for information that could be used to defame her and stating, among other things, that Plaintiff would be politically destroyed, Plaintiff would never work for any political candidate ever again, stating that if she cared about the party she would play nice with Defendant Lauer. Please see the text messages attached hereto as Exhibit 4.
- 46. On or about August 27, 2018 Defendant Lauer called Plaintiff from a blocked number making vague threats about "kicking someone's ass" Plaintiff hung up on Defendant Lauer and he attempted to call her back.
- 47. Defendant Lauer wrote the 360 Article citing a fictitious "campaign source" so that he could yet again diminish the Plaintiff's character; essentially calling Plaintiff a liar and questioning her credibility. This was obviously done so that others reading the 360 Article would believe Plaintiff to be a liar.
- 48. Defendant Lauer through text messages to a third party states that he will continue to harass the Plaintiff.
- 49. These Articles and Video were unprivileged publications and were made to several third parties.
 - 50. Defendants were negligent in making these statements.

- 51. Plaintiff trade, business and professions have been damaged as a result of the Defendants actions and their habitual defamation of the Plaintiff.
- 52. By reason of the forgoing facts, Plaintiff has been damaged in a sum excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) as will be determined by proof introduced into evidence at the time of trial.
- 53. Plaintiff has been required to retain the services of an attorney to defend this action on her behalf and, as such, is entitled to an award of a reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Invasion of Privacy: False Light-as to all Defendants)

- 54. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 53 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 55. Defendants made several false statements concerning Plaintiff by authoring, posting and sharing the Political Gypsy Article, Ethics Article and Video.
- 56. The statements published by the Defendants placed Plaintiff before the public in a false light as the Defendants made several false statements that made it appear to the public that the Plaintiff is corrupt, deceptive, a criminal, unfit to be a campaign manager, unethical and a liar.
- 57. The false light under which Plaintiff was placed would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 58. Defendants had knowledge that their statements were false and acted in reckless disregard as to the falsity of the publicized statements and the false light in which Plaintiff was placed.
- 59. Plaintiff has been injured and received mental distress from having been exposed to public view.

- 60. By reason of the forgoing facts, Plaintiff has been damaged in a sum excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) as will be determined by proof introduced into evidence at the time of trial.
- 61. Plaintiff has been required to retain the services of an attorney to defend this action on her behalf and, as such, is entitled to an award of a reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Invasion of Privacy: Unreasonable Publicity Given to Private Facts-as to all

Defendants)

- 62. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 61 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 63. Defendant Sanson authored and shared the Political Gypsy Article wherein he states that Plaintiff "was charged and sentenced for Assault Causing Bodily Injury in Dallas Texas." The assault charges referenced in the Political Gypsy Article were dismissed against Plaintiff and her record was sealed. The Order sealing this record was deemed confidential by Court as was Plaintiff's record. Defendant Lauer also shared the Political Gypsy Article with several people and Facebook groups.
 - 64. Disclosure of these sealed records would be offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities.
 - 65. By reason of the forgoing facts, Plaintiff has been damaged in a sum excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) as will be determined by proof introduced into evidence at the time of trial.
 - 66. Plaintiff has been required to retain the services of an attorney to defend this action on her behalf and, as such, is entitled to an award of a reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage-as to all Defendants)

- 67. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 66 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 68. There are several prospective relationships that exist between Plaintiff and third parties, both as a campaign manager and a real estate agent.
- 69. Defendants were aware of Plaintiff's prospective contractual relationships with political candidates and real estate clients.
- 70. Defendants specifically authored published and shared the Articles and Video attacking Plaintiff's credibility and suitability to act as a campaign manager and real estate agent. Defendant accused Plaintiff of ethical violations under real estate license, called Plaintiff a criminal, called Plaintiff a liar, falsely stated that Plaintiff does not have a business license, and among several other accusations accused Plaintiff of extortion.
- 71. Defendants knew their statements were false and after being shown proof of the falsity of the statements refused to remove them from the public's view.
- 72. Defendants had no purpose to authoring, posting and sharing these Articles and Video other than to harm Plaintiff by preventing her relationships with third parties.
 - 73. Defendants had no privilege or justification to publish these false statements.
 - 74. As a result of Defendant's actions Plaintiffs has been harmed.
- 75. By reason of the forgoing facts, Plaintiff has been damaged in a sum excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) as will be determined by proof introduced into evidence at the time of trial.
- 76. Plaintiff has been required to retain the services of an attorney to defend this action on her behalf and, as such, is entitled to an award of a reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress-as to all Defendants) 1 2 Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation 77. 3 contained in paragraphs 1 through 78 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 4 Defendants' conduct was extreme and outrageous with the intention of and 5 78. reckless disregard for causing emotional distress to Plaintiff. 6 7 Defendants actions were conducted with malice. 79. Plaintiff suffered severe and extreme emotional distress as the actual or proximate 8 80. 9 result of Defendants' conduct. 10 By reason of the forgoing facts, Plaintiff has been damaged in a sum excess of 11 81. Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) as will be determined by proof introduced into evidence 12 13 at the time of trial. Plaintiff has been required to retain the services of an attorney to defend this 14 82. action on her behalf and, as such, is entitled to an award of a reasonable attorney's fees and 15 16 costs. 17 SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION 18 (Negligence Per Se-as to all Defendants Violations of NRS 200.510 & NRS 200.530 & NRS 19 200.55<u>0</u>) 20 Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation 21 83. contained in paragraphs 1 through 82 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein. 22 23 Defendants violated NRS 200.510, NRS 200.530 & NRS 200.550 84. 24 Defendants violations of the statutes caused Plaintiff injuries. 85. 2.5 Plaintiff belongs to a class of persons that the statutes were intended to protect. 26 86. Plaintiff's injuries were the type against which the statutes were intended to 27 87. 28 protect.

96. The Plaintiff, in addition to the compensatory damages, are entitled to recover damages for the sake of example and by way of punishing the Defendants for three times the amount of compensatory damages awarded to the Plaintiff if the amount of compensatory damages is \$100,000 or more; or three hundred thousand dollars if the amount of compensatory damages awarded to the plaintiff is less than \$100,000.00.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays for each and every aforementioned cause of action, the following relief against the Defendants:

- 1. For General Damages in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00),
- 2. For Punitive Damages in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00),
- 3. For an award of attorney's fees and costs,
- 4. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED this day of November, 2018.

MCDONALD LAW GROUP, LLC

Ву

Rena McDonald, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 8852

203 S. Water Street, Suite 300

Henderson, NV 89015

(702)448-4962

Fax (702)448-5011

Attorney for Plaintiff

1	<u>VERIFICATION</u>
2	
3	STATE OF NEVADA)
4) ss.
5	COUNTY OF CLARK)
6	Lawra Kassee Bulen, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:
7	1. That I am the Plaintiff in the above entitled action.
8	2. That I have read the foregoing Complaint and know the contents hereof.
9	3. That the same is true of my own knowledge, except for those matters therein
10	contained stated upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.
11	()
12	Lawra Kassee Bulen
13	Subscribed and sworn to before me
14	this day of day, 2018.
15	Michaeller _
16	Notary Public in and for said MICHELLE N. GRAHAM Notary Public State of New York
17	County and State State of Nevada Appt. No. 14-14252-1 My Appt. Expires July 2, 2022
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1 **ORDG** CLERK OF THE COURT KAPLAN COTTNER 2 KORY L. KAPLAN Nevada Bar No. 13164 3 Email: kory@kaplancottner.com KYLE P. COTTNER 4 Nevada Bar No. 12722 5 Email: kyle@kaplancottner.com 850 E. Bonneville Ave. 6 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 381-8888 7 Facsimile: (702) 832-5559 Attorneys for Defendants 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 11 LAWRA KASSEE BULEN an individual, CASE NO.: A-18-784807-C DEPT. NO.: 8 12 Fax: (702) 832-5559 Plaintiff. 13 ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' VS. Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS 850 E. Bonneville Ave. KAPLAN COTTNER 14 ROB LAUER, an individual, STEVE SANSON, **COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO NRS** an individual, and DOES I through X; and ROE 15 41.660 CORPORATIONS I through X, Inclusive, Fel: (702) 381-8888 16 Date of Hearing: August 4, 2020 Time of Hearing: 9:30 a.m. Defendants. 17 18 THIS MATTER having come before the Court with respect to Defendants' Special Motion 19 to Dismiss Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.660 ("Motion") commencing on August 4, 2020 at the 20 hour of 9:30 a.m.; Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. of the law firm of Kaplan Cottner, appearing on behalf of 21 Defendants Rob Lauer and Steve Sanson (collectively, "Defendants"); and Brandon L. Phillips, 22 Esq., appearing on behalf of Plaintiff Lawra Kassee Bulen ("Plaintiff"); the Court having read and 23 considered Defendants' Motion, the Opposition and Reply on file, and the exhibits attached 24 thereto; and the Court having heard and considered the arguments of counsel, and good cause 25 appearing therefor, the Court finds the following: 26 I. 27 FINDINGS OF FACT 28 1. On November 20, 2018, Plaintiff filed her Complaint against Defendants for: (1)

Statistically closed: USJR - CV - Motion to Dismiss (by Defendant) (USMD)

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Defamation; (2) Defamation Per Se; (3) Invasion of Privacy: False Light; (4) Invasion of Privacy: Unreasonable Publicity Given to Private Facts; (5) Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage; (6) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; (7) Negligence Per Se; (8) Concert of Action; and (9) NRS 42.005 Request for Exemplary and Punitive Damages.

- 2. On July 2, 2020, Defendants filed the Motion.
- 3. In their Motion, Defendants argue that each of Plaintiff's causes of action arise from protected speech in the form of several published articles and a video.
- 4. Attached to the Motion are declarations from each of the Defendants, stating that the articles and video are truthful, made without Defendants' knowledge of any falsehood, and/or are the opinions of Defendants.

II.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 5. Nevada's anti-SLAPP ("Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation") statutes aim to protect First Amendment rights by providing defendants with a procedural mechanism to dismiss "meritless lawsuit[s] that a party initiates primarily to chill a defendant's exercise of his or her First Amendment free speech rights" before incurring the costs of litigation. Stubbs v. Strickland, 129 Nev. 146, 150, 297 P.3d 326, 329 (2013). Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute is codified in NRS 41.635 thru NRS 41.670, inclusive.
- Nevada's anti-SLAPP statutes "create a procedural mechanism to prevent wasteful and abusive litigation by requiring the plaintiff to make an initial showing of merit." John v. Douglas Cnty. Sch. Dist., 125 Nev. 746, 757-58, 219 P.3d 1276, 1284 (2009); U.S. ex rel. Newsham v. Lockheed Missiles & Space Co., 190 F.3d 963, 970-71 (9th Cir. 1999) ("The hallmark of a SLAPP suit is that it lacks merit, and is brought with the goals of obtaining an economic advantage over a citizen party by increasing the cost of litigation to the point that the citizen party's case will be weakened or abandoned, and of deterring future litigation."). The Nevada Legislature has further "explained that SLAPP lawsuits abuse the judicial process by chilling, intimidating and punishing individuals for their involvement in public affairs." John, 125 Nev. at 752, 29 P.3d 1281.

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- 7. Under Nevada's anti-SLAPP statutes, a moving party may file a special motion to dismiss if an action is filed in retaliation to the exercise of free speech. Coker v. Sassone, 135 Nev. 8, 11–12, 432 P.3d 746, 749–50 (2019). A district court considering a special motion to dismiss must undertake a two-prong analysis. First, it 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 free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern." NRS 41.660(3)(a). If successful, the district court advances to the second prong, whereby "the burden shifts to the plaintiff to show with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim." Shapiro v. Welt, 133 Nev. 35, 38, 389 P.3d 262, 267 (2017) (quoting NRS 41.660(3)(b)). Otherwise, the inquiry ends at the first prong, and the case advances to discovery.
- 8. A moving party seeking protection under NRS 41.660 need only demonstrate that his or her conduct falls within one of four statutorily defined categories of speech, rather than address difficult questions of First Amendment law. See Delucchi v. Songer, 133 Nev. 290, 299, 396 P.3d 826, 833 (2017). NRS 41.637(4) defines one such category as: "[c]ommunication 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."
- 9. The published articles and video were made in a public forum. Damon v. Ocean Hills Journalism Club, 85 Cal.App.4th 468, 475, 102 Cal.Rptr.2d 205) (2000).
- 10. The published articles and video concern an issue of public interest as Plaintiff states in her Complaint that she is a campaign manager for Republican candidates and a professional real estate agent.
- 11. All of Plaintiff's causes of action in the Complaint are based upon protected speech by Defendants as the underlying conduct central to each of the causes of action are good-faith

¹ The Nevada Supreme Court considers California case law when determining whether Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute applies to a claim because California's anti-SLAPP statute is similar in purpose and language to Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute. John v. Douglas Cnty. Sch. Dist., 125 Nev. 746, 756, 219 P.3d 1276, 1283 (2009); see NRS 41.660; Cal.Civ.Proc.Code § 425.16 (West 2004 & Supp. 2009).

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communications. Abrams v. Sanson, 136 Nev. Adv. Op. 9, 458 P.3d 1062 (2020); Veterans in Politics Int'l, Inc. v. Willick, 457 P.3d 970 (Nev. 2020) (unpublished).

- 12. Defendants have satisfied their burden under the first prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis as they have demonstrated that their statements were either truthful or made without knowledge of their falsity, the statements concern matters of public concern, and the statements were made in a public forum.
- As such, the burden shifts to Plaintiff to show "with prima facie evidence a 13. probability of prevailing on the claim." Shapiro, 133 Nev. at 38, 389 P.3d at 267 (quoting NRS 41.660(3)(b)).
- 14. In reviewing Plaintiff's probability of prevailing on each of her claims arising from protected good-faith communications, Plaintiff has not shown minimal merit.
- Plaintiff's defamation claim and defamation per se claim lack minimal merit 15. because Defendants' statements were truthful, made without knowledge of falsehood, and/or were opinions that therefore could not be defamatory. See Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 718, 57 P.3d 82, 90 (2002) (excluding statements of opinion from defamation).
- 16. Plaintiff has not shown minimal merit supporting her claims for invasion of privacy because she failed to show that she was placed in a false light that was highly offensive or that Defendants' statements were made with knowledge or disregard to their falsity. See Restatement (Second) of Torts § 652E (1977).
- 17. Plaintiff's claim for intentional interference with prospective business advantage lacks minimal merit as Plaintiff has not demonstrated that the statements were false or that there was otherwise wrongful or unjustified conduct on the part of Defendants. Klein v. Freedom Strategic Partners, LLC, 595 F. Supp. 2d 1152 (D. Nev. 2009).
- 18. Plaintiff has not shown that her intentional infliction of emotional distress (IIED) claim had minimal merit because she did not show extreme and outrageous conduct beyond the bounds of decency. See Olivero v. Lowe, 116 Nev. 395, 398, 995 P.2d 1023, 1025 (2000) (stating IIED claim elements); Maduike v. Agency Rent-A-Car, 114 Nev. 1, 4, 953 P.2d 24, 26 (1998) (considering "extreme and outrageous conduct" as that which is beyond the bounds of decency).

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See Candelore v. Clark Cty. Sanitation Dist., 975 F.2d 588, 591 (9th Cir. 1992) (considering claim for IIED under Nevada law and observing that "[1]iability for emotional distress will not extend to 'mere insults, indignities, threats, annoyances, petty oppressions, or other trivialities" (quoting Restatement (Second) of Torts § 46 cmt. d (1965))).

- 19. Plaintiff did not show minimal merit supporting her claim for concert of action because she did not show any tortious act or that Defendant agreed to conduct an inherently dangerous activity or an activity that poses a substantial risk of harm to others. See GES, Inc. v. Corbitt, 117 Nev. 265, 271, 21 P.3d. 11, 15 (2001).
- 20. Since there is no minimal merit supporting any of Plaintiff's other causes of action, Plaintiff's claim for punitive damages must also be dismissed. NRS 24.005.
- 21. As a result, Plaintiff has failed to meet her burden under the second prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis.
- 22. As a matter of law, Defendants are entitled to attorney's fees and costs, and may also be awarded, in addition to reasonable costs and attorney's fees, an amount of up to \$10,000 per Defendant. NRS 41.670(1)(a)-(b).
- 23. Defendants shall file a separate motion for attorney's fees, costs, and an award pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(a)-(b).

III.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.660 is **GRANTED** in its entirety.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants are entitled to attorney's fees and costs, and may also be awarded, in addition to reasonable costs and attorney's fees, an amount of up to \$10,000 per Defendant.

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	1	IT IS SO ORDERED this day of August, 2020.		
	2		Dated this 21st day of August, 2	2020
	3		In	
	4		62A 31E 23DA 266GH	ORABLE TREVOR L. ATKIN ITH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
	5	Respectfully Submitted By:	Trevor Atkin District Court Judge	Approved as to form and content:
	6	Dated: August 18, 2020		Dated: August 18, 2020
	7 8	KAPLAN COTTNER		BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ATTORNEY
	9			AT LAW, PLLC
	10	By: /s/ Kory L. Kaplan KORY L. KAPLAN		By: /s/ Brandon L. Phillips BRANDON L. PHILLIPS
		Nevada Bar No. 13164		Nevada Bar No. 12264
559	11	850 E. Bonneville Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101		1455 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 750 Las Vegas, NV 89119
OTTNER eville Ave. svada 89101 Fax: (702) 832-5559	12	Attorneys for Defendants		Attorney for Plaintiff
AVE. 89101 (702)	13			
KAPLAN COTTNER 850 E. Bonneville Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 2) 381-8888 Fax: (702)	14			
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Sunny Southworth

From: Brandon Phillips <blp@abetterlegalpractice.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:20 AM

To: Kory Kaplan

Cc: Kyle Cottner; Sunny Southworth

Subject: RE: Bulen-Lauer Order Granting Anti-Slapp Motion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Kory,

You can use my e-signature for the Order.

Thank you,

BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC

Brandon L. Phillips, Esq.

1455 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 750

Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 Phone: 702-795-0097 Facsimile: 702-795-0098

Email: blp@abetterlegalpractice.com

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From: Kory Kaplan <kory@kaplancottner.com> Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:18 PM

To: Brandon Phillips <blp@abetterlegalpractice.com>

Cc: Kyle Cottner <kyle@kaplancottner.com>; Sunny Southworth <sunny@kaplancottner.com>

Subject: Bulen-Lauer Order Granting Anti-Slapp Motion

Brandon,

Please see the attached draft of the order granting Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.660. Please let me know if you have any edits.

Thanks, Kory



Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. 850 E. Bonneville Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101 Tel (702) 381-8888 Fax (702) 382-1169 www.kaplancottner.com

1	CSERV	
2	DISTRICT COURT	
3	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA	
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5	Lawra Bulen, Plaintiff(s)	CASE NO: A-18-784807-C
7	Vs.	DEPT. NO. Department 8
8	Rob Lauer, Defendant(s)	
9		
10	AUTOMAT	ED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
11		
12	This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Order Granting was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:	
13	Service Date: 8/21/2020	
14	Scrvice Date. 6/21/2020	
15	Brandon Phillips	blp@abetterlegalpractice.com
16	Paul Padda	psp@paulpaddalaw.com
17	Steve Sanson	devildog1285@cs.com
18	Rob Lauer	news360daily@hotmail.com
19	Rob Lauer	centurywest1@hotmail.com
20 21	Robin Tucker	rtucker@abetterlegalpractice.com
22	Kory Kaplan	kory@kaplancottner.com
23	Sara Savage	sara@lzkclaw.com
24	Sunny Southworth	sunny@kaplancottner.com
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9/1/2020 3:29 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **MAFC** KAPLAN COTTNER 2 KORY L. KAPLAN Nevada Bar No. 13164 3 Email: kory@kaplancottner.com KYLE P. COTTNER 4 Nevada Bar No. 12722 5 Email: kyle@kaplancottner.com 850 E. Bonneville Ave. 6 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 381-8888 7 Facsimile: (702) 832-5559 Attorneys for Defendants 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 11 LAWRA KASSEE BULEN an individual, CASE NO.: A-18-784807-C DEPT. NO.: 8 12 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel: (702) 381-8888 Fax: (702) 832-5559 Plaintiff, **DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR** 13 ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS, AND VS. ADDITIONAL RELIEF PURSUANT 850 E. Bonneville Ave. KAPLAN COTTNER 14 TO NRS 41.660 AND NRS 41.670 ROB LAUER, an individual, STEVE SANSON, 15 an individual, and DOES I through X; and ROE **HEARING REQUESTED** CORPORATIONS I through X, Inclusive, 16 Date of Hearing: August 4, 2020 Defendants. 17 Time of Hearing: 9:30 a.m. 18 19 Come now, Defendants Rob Lauer ("Lauer") and Steve Sanson ("Sanson," collectively 20 with Lauer, "Defendants"), by and through their counsel, Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. and Kyle P. 21 Cottner, Esq., of the law firm of Kaplan Cottner, and hereby move this Honorable Court for an 22 award of attorney's fees and costs therefrom pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") 41.670 23 and NRS 41.670. 24 25 26 27 28

Case Number: A-18-784807-C

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This Motion is made and based on the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the papers and pleadings already on file herein, and any oral argument the Court may permit at the hearing of this matter.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2020.

KAPLAN COTTNER

/s/ Kory L. Kaplan KORY L. KAPLAN Nevada Bar No. 13164 KYLE P. COTTNER Nevada Bar No. 12722 850 E. Bonneville Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Attorneys for Defendants

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS

Plaintiff filed her Complaint against Defendants relating to three published articles and a video interview posted online concerning Plaintiff. See Complaint, already on file herein. Plaintiff alleged 9 causes of action against Defendants for: (1) Defamation; (2) Defamation Per Se; (3) Invasion of Privacy: False Light; (4) Invasion of Privacy: Unreasonable Publicity Given to Private Facts; (5) Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage; (6) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; (7) Negligence Per Se; (8) Concert of Action; and (9) NRS 42.005 Request for Exemplary and Punitive Damages. See generally id. 1

On July 2, 2020, Defendants filed their Special Motion to Dismiss the Complaint pursuant to NRS 41.660. See Motion to Dismiss, already on file herein. Because Defendants' conduct is protected free speech, anti-SLAPP ("Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation") laws are designed to provide for early dismissal of meritless lawsuits filed against people for the exercise

¹ Defendants incorporate herein by reference their entire Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.660 that was filed in this case on July 2, 2020.

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of their First Amendment rights. *Id.*; see also NRS 41.660.

On July 21, 2020, Defendants filed a Notice of Non-Opposition to their Special Motion to Dismiss. See Notice of Non-Opposition, already on file herein. Later on, July 21, 2020, Plaintiff filed an Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss. See Opposition, already on file herein. On July 28, 2020, Defendants filed their Reply in support of their Special Motion to Dismiss. See Reply, already on file herein.

On August 4, 2020, this Court held oral argument on Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss. See Register of Actions. This Court granted Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss in its entirety. See Order Granting Special Motion to Dismiss, already on file herein. Further, the Court ordered that Defendants are entitled to attorney's fees and costs, and may also be awarded, in addition to reasonable costs and attorney's fees, an amount of up to \$10,000 per Defendant. *Id.*; see also NRS 41.670.

II.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

- A. The Court Shall Award Reasonable Costs, Attorney's Fees, and \$10,000 per Defendant as the Anti-SLAPP Motion was Granted.
 - 1. If the court grants a special motion to dismiss filed pursuant to NRS 41.660:
 - (a) The court shall award reasonable costs and attorney's fees to the person against whom the action was brought, except that the court shall award reasonable costs and attorney's fees to this State or to the appropriate political subdivision of this State if the Attorney General, the chief legal officer or attorney of the political subdivision or special counsel provided the defense for the person pursuant to NRS 41.660.
 - (b) The court may award, in addition to reasonable costs and attorney's fees awarded pursuant to paragraph (a), an amount of up to \$10,000 to the person against whom the action was brought.
 - (c) The person against whom the action is brought may bring a separate action to recover:
 - (1) Compensatory damages;
 - (2) Punitive damages; and
 - (3) Attorney's fees and costs of bringing the separate action.

[...]

3. 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.

NRS 41.670.

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Further, the Ninth Circuit has held that when an anti-SLAPP motion disposes of every cause of action, it is appropriate to award all attorney's fees incurred in connection with the case, even if not directly related to the anti-SLAPP motion, because the successful movant "incurred the expenses Plaintiffs dispute in responding to a lawsuit the district court found baseless." Graham-Suit v. Clainos, 738 F.3d 1131, 1159 (9th Cir. 2013) (affirmed in Graham-Suit v. Clainos, 756 F.3d 724, 752 (9th Cir. 2014); Wanland v. Law Offices of Mastagni, Holstedt & Chiurazzi, 141 Cal.App.4th 15, 45 Cal.Rptr.3d 633, 637 (2006) ("[T]o this end, the provision is broadly construed so as to effectuate the legislative purpose of reimbursing the prevailing defendant for expenses incurred in extracting herself from a baseless lawsuit.").

Pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(a), reasonable costs and attorney's fees are not discretionary and shall be awarded upon the court's granting of a special motion to dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.660. As stated above, Defendants prevailed on obtaining dismissal of Plaintiff's Complaint under Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute, NRS § 41.660. As a result, the legislature has mandated that as the prevailing party in the anti-SLAPP litigation, Defendants must be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs. As reflected in the declaration of counsel within Exhibit A and the redacted billing entries provided in **Exhibit B**, Defendants incurred attorney's fees in the amount of \$13,650.00 in defending Plaintiff's abusive lawsuit. Pursuant to NRS § 41.660(1), judgment in favor of Defendants in this amount is necessary. For the same reasons, costs in the amount of \$281.84 as stated within the Defendants' Memorandum of Costs located at Exhibit C must also be awarded. Finally, NRS 41.670 permits, in addition to attorney's fees and costs, an amount of up to \$10,000 per defendant, and Defendants therefore request an additional \$20,000.

B. Defendants Are Entitled to Attorney's Fees.

In determining the reasonableness and amount of an attorney's fee award, a court may begin

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its analysis with any method rationally designed to calculate a reasonable amount. Shuette v. Beazer Homes, 121 Nev. 837, 864; 124 P.3d 530, 549 (2005). Whether the court seeks to award the entire amount of attorney's fees or use an alternative approach, the court must consider the requested amount in light of the factors enumerated in Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 349; 455 P.2d 31 (1969), "namely, (1) the advocate's professional qualities, (2) the nature of the litigation, (3) the work performed, and (4) the result." Shuette, 121 Nev. at 865; 124 P.3d at 549. The *Brunzell* factors are demonstrated below and further supported by the Declaration of Kory L. Kaplan, Esq., a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

1. Qualities of the Advocate.

Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. has been licensed to practice law in Nevada since 2013 and has been licensed to practice law in Florida since 2019. *Id.* at ¶ 10. Mr. Kaplan received his undergraduate degree in 2010 from UCLA and his law degree in 2013 from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law. *Id.* at ¶ 7. Prior to forming his current firm, Mr. Kaplan was a partner at the law firms of Larson Zirzow Kaplan and Larson Zirzow Kaplan Cottner, an associate at Gentile Cristalli Miller Armeni Savarese, and an associate at the law firm of Gordon Silver. *Id.* at ¶ 8. Prior to joining Gordon Silver, Mr. Kaplan served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Jackie Glass and the Honorable Ronald Israel of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada. *Id.* at ¶ 9. Mr. Kaplan is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, United States District Court for the District of Nevada, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Supreme Court of Florida, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. *Id.* at ¶ 11.

2. Character of the Work / Nature of the Litigation.

The character of the work performed in this case for Defendants, including the intricacy, importance, and the time and skill required in Defendants' counsel's work is evident throughout. The nature of the litigation involved complex research, analysis and drafting of the dispositive motion and related work involving anti-SLAPP laws. The case was intricate as it involved researching claims and defenses, including California law as Nevada follows California law in anti-SLAPP cases, as evidenced in the 20-page Special Motion to Dismiss. This case involved freedom of speech and the protections of journalists' First Amendment rights to provide

NAPLAIN COLLINER	850 E. Bonneville Ave.	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	Pol. (707) 201 0000 - Eow. (707) 022 5550
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Defendants with a procedural mechanism to dismiss this meritless lawsuit that Plaintiff initiated primarily to chill Defendants' exercise of their First Amendment free speech rights.

This factor, therefore, also weigh in favor of the reasonableness of the attorney's fees.

3. Work Performed.

Considerable time and attention were given to this matter as reflected in the itemized billing statement, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. Undersigned counsel's skill and attention to this case is reflected in the filings in this case. For the same reasons, costs in the amount of \$281.84 as stated within the Defendants' Memorandum of Costs located at **Exhibit C** must also be awarded.

4. Result.

Finally, Defendants were successful in this case as Plaintiff's Complaint was dismissed pursuant to NRS 41.660. These successful results, together with the other *Brunzell* factors, are compelling evidence and favor awarding Defendants the total amount of attorney's fees incurred in this case.

IV.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this Court award Defendants attorney's fees in the sum of \$13,650, costs in the amount of \$281.84, and an additional amount of \$10,000 per Defendant pursuant to NRS 41.670, for a total judgment of \$33,931.84.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2020.

KAPLAN COTTNER

/s/ Kory L. Kapian
KORY L. KAPLAN
Nevada Bar No. 13164
KYLE P. COTTNER
Nevada Bar No. 12722
850 E. Bonneville Ave.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Attorneys for Defendants

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel: (702) 381-8888 Fax: (702) 832-5559 850 E. Bonneville Ave. KAPLAN COTTNER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the *DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS,*AND ADDITIONAL RELIEF PURSUANT TO NRS 41.660 AND NRS 41.670 submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the 1st day of September, 2020. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the E-Service List as follows²:

N/A

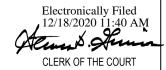
I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to:

Brandon L. Phillips, Esq. 1455 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 750 Las Vegas, NV 89119 Attorney for Plaintiff

/s/ Sunny Southworth
Sunny Southworth, An employee of
Kaplan Cottner

² Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an E-Filed document through the E-Filing System consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 12/18/2020 11:40 AM



ORD

BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ESQ

Nevada Bar No. 12264

BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC

1455 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 750

Las Vegas, NV 89119

Tel: (702) 795-0097

Fax: (702) 795-0098

blp@abetterlegalpractice.com Attorney for Plaintiff, L. Bulen

> **DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

LAWRA KASSEE BULEN,

CASE NO. A-18-784807-C

Plaintiff,

DEPT. NO. 8

VS.

STEVE SANSON, an Individual; ROB LAUER, an Individual,

ORDER ON DEFENDANTS'

MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES

Hearing Date: October 6, 2020

Defendant.

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THIS MATTER, having come before the Court with respect to Defendants' Motion for

Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Additional Relief pursuant to NRS 41.660 and NRS 41.670

("Motion"), commencing on October 6, 2020 at the hour of 9:30 a.m.; Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. of

the law firm of Kaplan Cottner, appearing on behalf of Defendants Rob Lauer and Steve Sanson

(collectively, "Defendants"); and Brandon L. Phillips, Esq., appearing on behalf of Plaintiff

Lawra Kassee Bulen ("Plaintiff"); the Court having read and considered Defendants' Motion, the

Opposition and Reply on file, and the exhibits attached thereto; and the Court having heard and

considered the arguments of counsel, and good cause appearing therefor, the Court finds the

following: 27

28

BRANDON L. PHILLIPS Attorney at Law, PLLC 1455 E. Tropicana Ave. Suite 750 AS VEGAS, NEVADA 89169

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On November 20, 2018, Plaintiff filed her Complaint against Defendants for: (1) Defamation; (2) Defamation Per Se; (3) Invasion of Privacy: False Light; (4) Invasion of Privacy: Unreasonable Publicity Given to Private Facts; (5) Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage; (6) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; (7) Negligence Per Se; (8) Concert of Action; and (9) NRS 42.005 Request for Exemplary and Punitive Damages.
- 2. On July 2, 2020, Defendants filed their Special Motion to Dismiss the Complaint pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") 41.660.
- 3. At the oral argument on August 4, 2020, the Court granted Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss in its entirety.
- 4. On August 25, 2020, Notice of Entry of Order was entered on the Court's Order Granting Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss. The findings of fact and conclusions of law within the Court's Order Granting Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss in its entirety is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 5. Defendants prevailed on obtaining dismissal of Plaintiff's entire Complaint under Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute, NRS § 41.660.
 - 6. That Plaintiff's claims were not brought in bad faith or for a frivolous purpose.
 - 7. On September 1, 2020, Defendants filed the Motion.
 - 8. On September 15, 2020, Plaintiff filed her Opposition to the Motion.
 - 9. On September 29, 2020, Defendants filed their Reply in support of the Motion.
- 10. Defendants incurred \$16,415.00 in attorney's fees and \$281.84 in costs related to this entire matter.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

11. Nevada's anti-SLAPP ("Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation") statutes aim to protect First Amendment rights by providing defendants with a procedural mechanism to dismiss "meritless lawsuit[s] that a party initiates primarily to chill a defendant's exercise of his

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or her First Amendment free speech rights" before incurring the costs of litigation. *Stubbs v. Strickland*, 129 Nev. 146, 150, 297 P.3d 326, 329 (2013). Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute is codified in NRS 41.635 thru NRS 41.670, inclusive.

- 12. A moving party seeking protection under NRS 41.660 need only demonstrate that his or her conduct falls within one of four statutorily defined categories of speech, rather than address difficult questions of First Amendment law. *See Delucchi v. Songer*, 133 Nev. 290, 299, 396 P.3d 826, 833 (2017). NRS 41.637(4) defines one such category as: "[c]ommunication 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."
- 13. When an anti-SLAPP motion disposes of every cause of action, it is appropriate to award all attorney's fees incurred in connection with the case, even if not directly related to the anti-SLAPP motion, because the successful movant "incurred the expenses Plaintiffs dispute in responding to a lawsuit the district court found baseless." *Graham-Suit v. Clainos*, 738 F.3d 1131, 1159 (9th Cir. 2013) (*affirmed* in *Graham-Suit v. Clainos*, 756 F.3d 724, 752 (9th Cir. 2014); *Wanland v. Law Offices of Mastagni, Holstedt & Chiurazzi*, 141 Cal.App.4th 15, 45 Cal.Rptr.3d 633, 637 (2006) ("[T]o this end, the provision is broadly construed so as to effectuate the legislative purpose of reimbursing the prevailing defendant for expenses incurred in extracting herself from a baseless lawsuit.").
 - 14. Additionally, an award of anti-SLAPP costs and fees includes fees incurred after the motion is granted. *See Wanland v. Law Offices of Mastagni, Holstedt & Chiurazzi*, 141 Cal. App. 4th 15, 21 (2006) (finding that fees recoverable under anti-SLAPP statute include all postmotion fees, such as fees on fees, fees in connection with defending an award of fees, and fees on appeal of an order granting an Anti-SLAPP motion).
 - 15. In Nevada, trial courts "have great discretion to award attorney fees, and this discretion is tempered only by reason and fairness." *Haley v. Dist. Ct.*, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 16,273 P.3d 855, 860 (2012) (citing *Shuette v. Beazer Homes Holdings Corp.*, 121 Nev. 837, 864, 124 P.3d 530, 548-49 (2005)); *see also Bergmann v. Boyce*, 109 Nev. 670, 674, 856 P.2d 560, 563

(1993) (attorney's fees are "within the sound discretion of the trial court").)

- 16. In determining the reasonableness and amount of an attorney's fee award, a court may begin its analysis with any method rationally designed to calculate a reasonable amount. *Shuette v. Beazer Homes*, 121 Nev. 837, 864; 124 P.3d 530, 549 (2005). Whether the court seeks to award the entire amount of attorney's fees or use an alternative approach, the court must consider the requested amount in light of the factors enumerated in *Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 349; 455 P.2d 31 (1969), "namely, (1) the advocate's professional qualities, (2) the nature of the litigation, (3) the work performed, and (4) the result." *Shuette*, 121 Nev. at 865; 124 P.3d at 549.
- 17. Upon review of the *Brunzell* factors, the Declaration of Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. attached to the Motion, and the arguments made by the parties in the Motion, Plaintiff's Opposition, and Defendants' Reply in support of the Motion, Defendants' attorney's fees were reasonable and necessary.
- 18. As a matter of law, Defendants are entitled to their attorney's fees and costs. NRS 41.670(1)(a).

III. ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Defendants' Motion for Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Additional Relief pursuant to NRS 41.660 and NRS 41.670 is GRANTED in part.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Defendants are entitled to attorney's fees from Plaintiff in the amount of \$16,415.00 and costs in the amount of \$281.84, for a total judgment of \$16,696.84.

27 IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff,
28 Lawra Kassee Bulen, shall pay the full amount of \$16,696.84 to Defendants no later than thirty

1	CSERV	
2	DISTRICT COURT	
3	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA	
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5	Lawra Bulen, Plaintiff(s)	CASE NO: A-18-784807-C
6 7	Vs.	DEPT. NO. Department 8
8	Rob Lauer, Defendant(s)	DEI 1. NO. Department o
9	- Koo Lauci, Defendant(s)	
10	AUTOMAT	
11	AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
12	This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:	
13	Service Date: 12/18/2020	
14		
15	Brandon Phillips	blp@abetterlegalpractice.com
16	Paul Padda	psp@paulpaddalaw.com
17	Steve Sanson	devildog1285@cs.com
18	Rob Lauer	news360daily@hotmail.com
19	Rob Lauer	centurywest1@hotmail.com
20	Robin Tucker	rtucker@abetterlegalpractice.com
21 22	Kory Kaplan	kory@kaplancottner.com
23	Sara Savage	sara@lzkclaw.com
24	Sunny Southworth	sunny@kaplancottner.com
25		
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27		

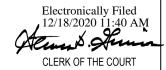
Electronically Filed 12/21/2020 10:47 AM Steven D. Grierson **CLERK OF THE COURT NEOJ** 1 BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ESO. Nevada Bar No. 12264 2 Brandon L. Phillips, Attorney at Law, PLLC 1455 E. Tropicana Avenue Suite 750 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 P: 702-795-0097 F: 702-795-0098 4 blp@abetterlegalpractice.com Attorney for Plaintiff, Lawra Kassee Bulen 5 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 6 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 7 LAWRA KASSEE BULEN, CASE NO.: A-18-784807-C 8 DEPT. NO.: VIII Plaintiff, 9 VS. 10 STEVE SANSON, an Individual; ROB 11 LAUER, an Individual, 12 Defendant(s). 13 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER 14 **TO: ALL PARTIES** 15 16 YOU, AND EACH OF YOU will please take notice that an Order was entered in this 17 matter on December 18, 2020. A copy of said ORDER is attached hereto and incorporated herewith 18 by reference. 19 **DATED** this 21st day of December, 2020. 20 Respectfully Submitted By: 21 /s/ Brandon L. Phillips 22 BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 12264 23 Brandon L. Phillips, Attorney at Law, PLLC 1455 E. Tropicana Avenue Suite 750 24 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 P: 702-795-0097 F: 702-795-0098 25 blp@abetterlegalpractice.com Attorney for Plaintiff, Lawra Kassee Bulen 26 27 28

1	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
2	
3	I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 21 st day of December, 2020, the undersigned, employee of
4	Brandon L. Phillips, Attorney at Law, PLLC, placed a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of
5	Entry of Order, in the United States Mail, in an addressed sealed envelope, postage prepaid,
6	addressed to the following:
7	KORY L. KAPLAN Nevada Bar No. 13164
8	850 E. Bonneville Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101 Attornous for Defondants
10	Attorneys for Defendants
11	/s/Robin Tucker
	An employee of, Brandon L. Phillips, Attorney at Law, PLLC
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EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 12/18/2020 11:40 AM



ORD

BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ESQ

Nevada Bar No. 12264

BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC

1455 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 750

Las Vegas, NV 89119

Tel: (702) 795-0097

Fax: (702) 795-0098

blp@abetterlegalpractice.com Attorney for Plaintiff, L. Bulen

> **DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

LAWRA KASSEE BULEN,

CASE NO. A-18-784807-C

Plaintiff,

DEPT. NO. 8

VS.

STEVE SANSON, an Individual; ROB LAUER, an Individual,

ORDER ON DEFENDANTS'

MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES

Hearing Date: October 6, 2020

Defendant.

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THIS MATTER, having come before the Court with respect to Defendants' Motion for

Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Additional Relief pursuant to NRS 41.660 and NRS 41.670

("Motion"), commencing on October 6, 2020 at the hour of 9:30 a.m.; Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. of

the law firm of Kaplan Cottner, appearing on behalf of Defendants Rob Lauer and Steve Sanson

(collectively, "Defendants"); and Brandon L. Phillips, Esq., appearing on behalf of Plaintiff

Lawra Kassee Bulen ("Plaintiff"); the Court having read and considered Defendants' Motion, the

Opposition and Reply on file, and the exhibits attached thereto; and the Court having heard and

considered the arguments of counsel, and good cause appearing therefor, the Court finds the

following: 27

28

BRANDON L. PHILLIPS Attorney at Law, PLLC 1455 E. Tropicana Ave. Suite 750 AS VEGAS, NEVADA 89169

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On November 20, 2018, Plaintiff filed her Complaint against Defendants for: (1) Defamation; (2) Defamation Per Se; (3) Invasion of Privacy: False Light; (4) Invasion of Privacy: Unreasonable Publicity Given to Private Facts; (5) Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage; (6) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; (7) Negligence Per Se; (8) Concert of Action; and (9) NRS 42.005 Request for Exemplary and Punitive Damages.
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- 4. On August 25, 2020, Notice of Entry of Order was entered on the Court's Order Granting Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss. The findings of fact and conclusions of law within the Court's Order Granting Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss in its entirety is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 5. Defendants prevailed on obtaining dismissal of Plaintiff's entire Complaint under Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute, NRS § 41.660.
 - 6. That Plaintiff's claims were not brought in bad faith or for a frivolous purpose.
 - 7. On September 1, 2020, Defendants filed the Motion.
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 - 14. Additionally, an award of anti-SLAPP costs and fees includes fees incurred after the motion is granted. *See Wanland v. Law Offices of Mastagni, Holstedt & Chiurazzi*, 141 Cal. App. 4th 15, 21 (2006) (finding that fees recoverable under anti-SLAPP statute include all postmotion fees, such as fees on fees, fees in connection with defending an award of fees, and fees on appeal of an order granting an Anti-SLAPP motion).
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(1993) (attorney's fees are "within the sound discretion of the trial court").)

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- 17. Upon review of the *Brunzell* factors, the Declaration of Kory L. Kaplan, Esq. attached to the Motion, and the arguments made by the parties in the Motion, Plaintiff's Opposition, and Defendants' Reply in support of the Motion, Defendants' attorney's fees were reasonable and necessary.
- 18. As a matter of law, Defendants are entitled to their attorney's fees and costs. NRS 41.670(1)(a).

III. ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Defendants' Motion for Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Additional Relief pursuant to NRS 41.660 and NRS 41.670 is GRANTED in part.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Defendants are entitled to attorney's fees from Plaintiff in the amount of \$16,415.00 and costs in the amount of \$281.84, for a total judgment of \$16,696.84.

27 IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff,
28 Lawra Kassee Bulen, shall pay the full amount of \$16,696.84 to Defendants no later than thirty

1	CSERV	
2	DISTRICT COURT	
3	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA	
4		
5	Lawra Bulen, Plaintiff(s)	CASE NO: A-18-784807-C
6 7	Vs.	DEPT. NO. Department 8
8	Rob Lauer, Defendant(s)	DEI 1. NO. Department o
9	- Koo Lauci, Defendant(s)	
10	AUTOMAT	
11	AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
12	This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:	
13	Service Date: 12/18/2020	
14		
15	Brandon Phillips	blp@abetterlegalpractice.com
16	Paul Padda	psp@paulpaddalaw.com
17	Steve Sanson	devildog1285@cs.com
18	Rob Lauer	news360daily@hotmail.com
19	Rob Lauer	centurywest1@hotmail.com
20	Robin Tucker	rtucker@abetterlegalpractice.com
21 22	Kory Kaplan	kory@kaplancottner.com
23	Sara Savage	sara@lzkclaw.com
24	Sunny Southworth	sunny@kaplancottner.com
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26		
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Electronically Filed 1/20/2021 9:07 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

NOAS 1 ADAM J. BREEDEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 008768 **BREEDEN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC** 376 E. Warm Springs Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 Phone: (702) 819-7770 Fax: (702) 819-7771 5 Adam@Breedenandassociates.com Attorneys for Defendants 6 7 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 8 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 9 LAWRA KASSEE BULEN. CASE NO.: A-18-784807-C 10 Plaintiff, DEPT.: V 11 **NOTICE OF APPEAL** 12 STEVE SANSON, an individual; ROB LAUER, an individual, 13 Defendants. 14 15 Notice is hereby given that Defendants, STEVE SANSON and ROB LAUER, hereby appeal 16 to the Supreme Court of Nevada from the Order on Defendants' Motion for Attorney's Fees entered 17 in this case on December 18, 2020 with Notice of Entry being filed December 21, 2020 to the extent 18 that it denied the Defendants a \$10,000 per Defendant sanction against the Plaintiff. 19 DATED this 20th day of January, 2021. 20 BREEDEN & ASSQCIATES, PLLC 21 22 AĎAM J. BREEDIN, ESO. 23 Nevada Bar No. 00\$768 24 376 E. Warm Springs Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 25 Phone: (702) 819-7770 Fax: (702) 819-7771 26 adam@breedenandassociates.com 27 Attorneys for Defendants

Case Number: A-18-784807-C

5

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 20th day of January, 2021, I served a copy of the foregoing legal document **NOTICE OF APPEAL** via the method indicated below:

	Pursuant to NRCP 5 and NEFCR 9, by electronically serving all counsel and
X	e-mails registered to this matter on the Court's official service, Wiznet
	system.
	Pursuant to NRCP 5, by placing a copy in the US mail, postage pre-paid to
	the following counsel of record or parties in proper person:
	Brandon L. Phillips, Esq.
	BRANDON L. PHILLIPS ATTORNEY AT LAW PLLC
	1455 E. Tropicana Avenue, Suite 750
	Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
	Attorneys for Plaintiff
	Via receipt of copy (proof of service to follow)

An Attorney or Employee of the following firm:

/s/ Kristy Johnson

BREEDEN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC