Cause No. 352-248169-10

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT

TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛ 352nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEFENDANT'S AMENDED MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL AND TO VACATE JUDGMENT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

BAT WORLD SANCTUARY and

Plaintiffs.

Defendant Pro se

AMANDA LOLLAR,

VS.

MARY CUMMINS,

Defendant Pro se Mary Cummins moves this Court to vacate judgment and grant Defendant a new trial in this case. This Motion is presented within the time limits prescribed by the Texas Rules of Civl Procedure for a Motion for a New Trial and is requested for good cause. In support of this motion, Movant will show the Court the following:

Introduction

Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 320 states that a judge may set aside a judgment and order a new trial "for good cause." The specific grounds mentioned are the damages being "manifestly" too large. The Texas Supreme Court has held that as long as the trial judge finds that a new trial is "in the interest of justice and fairness" there is no recourse other than to set aside the judgment and proceed with a new trial. The \$6,176,000 judgment is manifestly too large. A new trial is in the interest of justice and fairness.

Notwithstanding the ends of "justice and fairness" set out in Rule 320, five trial errors are named in Texas Rule 324 that must be the subject of a motion to vacate the first trial, or they cannot be appealed. The first is any complaint that will require new

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evidence to be heard, such as a claim of jury misconduct or newly discovered evidence. The second is any claim that the evidence was insufficient to support the finding. Third, if the evidence was overwhelmingly contrary to the court's finding there must be a motion under Rule 324. Fourth, any claim that the court's damages are either inadequate or excessive must first be heard on a motion to vacate. And finally, any claim that a party incorrectly argued to the court and the Court did not correct that error at a first trial must be the basis for a motion for a new trial.

The final judgment was excessive. The evidence was insufficient to support the finding. The evidence was overwhelmingly contrary to the court's findings. Defendant pro se may have incorrectly argued to the court and the court did not correct that error.

Plaintiffs failed to prove that Defendant defamed Plaintiffs

The essential elements of a defamation cause of action that must be proven in Texas are, (1) The defendant published a statement of fact, (2) The statement was defamatory, (3) The statement was false, (4) The defendant acted negligently in publishing the false and defamatory statement, and (5) The Plaintiffs suffered damages as a result. Plaintiffs failed to prove all five elements of defamation at trial. None of the items in the court's final order are defamatory (Exhibit 1).

(1) Plaintiffs failed to prove that Defendant posted all of the items in question. Plaintiffs' expert clearly stated that the articles in question were anonymous and untraceable.

Defendant only admitted to posting what was in Defendant's own website, blog, YouTube, Facebook, MySpace and Flickr accounts. Plaintiffs failed to prove that the items were "statements of fact." Some comments were question. Others were definitely not statements of fact.

- (2) Plaintiffs failed to prove that the items posted by Defendant were defamatory.
- (3) Plaintiffs failed to prove that the items posted by Defendant were false.

- (4) Plaintiffs failed to prove that Defendant acted negligently in publishing the items.
- (5) Plaintiffs failed to prove damages. Plaintiffs' own financials produced in discovery show increased revenue and not decreased revenue.
- (6) Plaintiffs failed to prove they are not a limited public figure.

Plaintiffs failed to prove that Defendant breached a contract.

The essential elements of a breach of contract cause of action that must be proven are, (1) There is a valid contract; (2) The Plaintiffs performed or tendered performance according to the terms of the contract; (3) The Defendant breached the contract; and (4) The Plaintiffs sustained damages as a result of the breach. Plaintiffs failed to prove all four elements of breach of contract.

- (1) Plaintiffs failed to prove there was a valid contract. Plaintiffs' own expert stated in writing that it was only "probable" that Defendant signed the contract. Expert stated it was not "strong probable" or "definite identification."
- (2) Plaintiffs failed to prove that Plaintiffs performed according to the terms of the contract. Defendant did not receive training as promised.
- (3) Plaintiffs failed to prove that Defendant's behavior would have been considered a breach of contract. Plaintiffs stated in court that Defendant's photos and videos did not defame Plaintiffs, did not share proprietary or copyrighted data. The contract states that breach of contract would have occurred only if Defendant stated she was trained by Bat World when she did not have a certificate. Defendant has never stated she was trained by Bat World to others because she wasn't. From the contract (Exhibit 2):

"In the event that Trainee is notified in writing that Trainee's Certificate of Completion has been revoked by BWS and Trainee thereafter publishes, advertises or communicates to any person the fact that Trainee was trained by BWS or is certified by

BWS, then Trainee agrees to pay BWS liquidated damages in the amount of \$10,000, and all attorney's fees incurred by BWS in enforcing this contract."

Defendant never received a certificate of completion as Defendant did not complete the full two week internship as she left early. No certificate of completion was revoked. Defendant has never published, advertised or communicated to any person that Trainee was trained by BWS or is certified by BWS.

(4) Plaintiffs failed to prove that Plaintiffs suffered damages. Plaintiffs' own financials produced in discovery show increased revenue and not decreased revenue.

Plaintiffs did not show causation

Plaintiffs admitted in court that they had no proof of damages or that Defendant caused any damages.

Pre-trial motion was not heard

Defendant's Motion for Contempt against Plaintiffs was set to have been heard at 9:00 a.m. on June 11, 2012 before the trial started. The Motion for Contempt was not heard. Defendant never received all items which the Court ordered Plaintiff to produce.

Witness failed to respond to subpoena

Defendant served a legal subpoena to show for trial to Kate Rugroden. Rugroden did not appear at trial as demanded. This witness was vital to Defendant's case.

The order as signed by Judge William Brigham is overly broad

(1) The order demands Defendant to remove items she did not write or make. These are items "amanda_lollar_bat_world_sanctuary_breeding_bats.pdf," amanda_lollar_1994_manual_original.pdf," and "mmmm.jpg." The first is a copy of Plaintiff's 1994 manual which is not copyright protected. The second is emails from Texas Parks & Wildlife about Plaintiffs. The third is a photoshopped image of Defendant's face. These items can never legally be defamation against Plaintiff because Defendant didn't write or make them.

(2) The order demands Defendant never post a video Defendant owns of Plaintiff performing an episiotomy. That would be prior restraint. Copyright and ownership of video rights were not a part of this case.

(3) The order demands Defendant to remove items which were not shown to be defamatory. Every statement in the order is the truth. For example item 1 reads "They breed animals in the facility." Plaintiff states in her website, manuals, online that the bats are breeding in the facility. Every item Defendant posted is the truth. (Exhibit 1)

The monetary award is excessive

The order includes \$3,000,000 in compensatory damages. Compensatory damages provide a plaintiff with the monetary amount necessary to replace what was lost, and nothing more. Plaintiffs did not show any financial damages. They did not prove that anything was lost. In fact Plaintiffs are making more money than ever before. \$3,000,000 is excessive.

The order includes \$3,000,000 in exemplary damages. Exemplary damages are damages requested and/or awarded in a lawsuit when the defendant's willful acts were malicious, violent, oppressive, fraudulent, wanton, or grossly reckless. Defendant posted truthful items about Plaintiffs in order to protect animals and the public. Plaintiffs proved no malice. Defendant did not act with malice toward Plaintiff but with concern for the protection of animals and the public. Exemplary damages are only awarded only when compensatory damages do not cover all actual damages. There were no actual damages. Exemplary damages are based on the individual's net worth. As per Defendant's affidavit of indigence, Defendant has a negative net worth.

Texas law provides that an award for exemplary damages is justified only upon proving fraud, malice, or gross negligence by clear and convincing evidence. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ann. § 41.003. "Because fraud is often difficult to prove, courts

justify awarding exemplary damages upon a showing of malice." 326 B.R. at 392 (citing Roth v. Mims, 298 B.R. 272, 297 (N.D. Tex. 2003)). The clear and convincing standard has been described as falling between the "preponderance of the evidence" standard used in civil proceedings and the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard used in criminal proceedings. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ann. § 41.008. "The amount awarded must be reasonably proportional to actual damages, though no set ratio exists for measuring reasonableness." In re Amberjack Interests, 326 B.R. at 393 (citing Alamo Nat'l Bank v. Kraus, 616 S.W.2d 908, 910 (Tex. 1981)). The Court weighs the following six factors in determining the reasonableness of an award: (1) the nature of the wrong; (2) the character of the conduct involved; (3) the degree of culpability of the wrongdoer; (4) the situation and sensibilities of the parties concerned; (5) the extent to which such conduct offends a public sense of justice and propriety; and (6) the net worth of the defendant. \$3,000,000 in exemplary damages is excessive. It would arbitrary deprive defendant of property in violation of due process.

The order includes \$10,000 liquidated damages per the contract. Again, Plaintiffs did not prove the elements of breach of contract. Defendant's actions would never have been a breach of the supposed contract. The contract clearly states (Exhibit 2);

"In the event that Trainee is notified in writing that Trainee's Certificate of Completion has been revoked by BWS and Trainee thereafter publishes, advertises or communicates to any person the fact that Trainee was trained by BWS or is certified by BWS, then Trainee agrees to pay BWS liquidated damages in the amount of \$10,000, and all attorney's fees incurred by BWS in enforcing this contract."

Defendant never received a certificate of completion as Defendant did not complete the full two week internship as she left early. No certificate of completion was revoked.

Defendant has never published, advertised or communicated to any person that Trainee was trained by BWS or is certified by BWS. This is the only mention of liquidated

1	damages and breach in the contract which Defendant still states she did not sign.	
2	Therefore, there can be no liquidated damages or attorney's fees as per the supposed	
3	contract.	
4	The order includes attorney fees in the amount of \$176,700. Again, Plaintiffs did not	
5	prove breach of contract as noted in item 9. Attorney fees can only be awarded if there	
6	was a breach of contract.	
7	Conclusion	
8	The granting of a new trial will not prejudice the other parties to this cause.	
9	Movant is ready, able and willing to go to trial immediately and no delay, harm, or	
10	prejudice will occur to the other parties as a result of Movant's motion.	
11	Prayer	
12	Movant Defendant Mary Cummins prays that the judgment be reversed. In the	
13	alternative Defendant prays that after notice and hearing the judgment rendered in this	
14	cause be set aside and that Movant be granted a new trial.	
15	Respectfully submitted,	
16	Mario O marios Defendad Dunas	
17	Mary Cummins, Defendant Pro se 645 W 9 th St, #110-140	
18	Los Angeles, CA 90015-1640 Phone 310-877-4770	
19	Email: mmmaryinla@aol.com	
20	Mary Cummins	
21	By: Mary Cummins, Defendant Pro Se	
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

AMENDED MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL AND TO VACATE JUDGMENT was served on

I, Mary Cummins, hereby certify that a TRUE COPY of the above **DEFENDANT'S**

the Plaintiffs' Attorney of record by FAX and by FIRST CLASS MAIL at

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Randy Turner Bailey & Galyen

1901 W. Airport Freeway

this 13th Day of November, 2012

Bedford, TX 76021

Fax: 817-545-3677

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Mary Cummins, Defendant Pro se

645 W 9th St, #110-140

Los Angeles, CA 90015-1640

Phone 310-877-4770

Email: mmmaryinla@aol.com

1	Cause No. 352-248169-10		
3	BAT WORLD SANCTUARY and SAMANDA LOLLAR,	IN THE DISTRICT COURT	
5	BAT WORLD SANCTUARY and AMANDA LOLLAR, Plaintiffs, vs. MARY CUMMINS, Defendant Pro se	TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS	
6	MARY CUMMINS,		
7	Defendant Pro se	352nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
9	<u>FIAT</u>		
LO	Defendant's DEFENDANT'S AMENDED MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL AND TO		
L1	VACATE JUDGMENT was filed on November, 2012. Defendant requests that the		
L2	foregoing be set for hearing.		
13	IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that a he	aring before this court on said Motion be se	
L4	for the day of	at a.m./p.m. in the 352nd	
L5	District Court of Tarrant County, Fort Worth,	Texas.	
L6			
L7	Date	<u>.</u> .	
L8			
L9	_		
20	J	ludge Presiding	
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1 Cause No. 352-248169-10 2 IN THE DISTRICT COURT **BAT WORLD SANCTUARY and** 3 AMANDA LOLLAR, 4 Plaintiffs. TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS 5 VS. 6 MARY CUMMINS, 7 352nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT **Defendant Pro se** 8 **DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR TELEPHONIC HEARING** 9 10 TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT: 11 Mary Cummins, Defendant Pro se, files this Motion for Telephonic Hearing, and in 12 support shows the following: 13 I. 14 The hearing is for DEFENDANT'S AMENDED MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL AND TO 15 VACATE JUDGMENT in the above styled cause filed November 2012. Hearing date has 16 not yet been set. 17 2. 18 Defendant resides in Los Angeles County, California and their appearance by 19 telephone would be the most expedient method of resolving the issues for all parties 20 involved. Defendant does not have the money to pay for airfare, motel to/from Texas. 21 3. 22 No party in this action will suffer any prejudice if Defendant appears telephonically. 23 24 /// 25

1	WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully requests that the Court grant this Motion for	
2	Telephonic Hearing.	
3	Respectfully submitted,	
4		
5	Mary Cummins, Defendant Pro se 645 W 9 th St, #110-140	
6	Los Angeles, CA 90015-1640 Phone 310-877-4770	
7	Email: mmmaryinla@aol.com November 13, 2012	
8		
9	By:	
10	Mary Cummins	
11	Mary Cummins, Defendant Pro Se	
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mary Cummins, hereby certify that a TRUE COPY of the above MOTION FOR

TELEPHONIC HEARING was served on the Appellees' Attorney of record by FAX and by FIRST CLASS MAIL at **RANDY TURNER**

Bailey & Galyen 1901 W. Airport Fwy Bedford, Texas 76021 this 13th Day of November, 2012

Mary Curamins, Defendant Pro se

645 W 9th St, #110-140

Los Angeles, CA 90015-1640

Phone 310-877-4770

Email: mmmaryinla@aol.com

Cause No. 352-248169-10

2	BAT WORLD SANCTUARY and AMANDA LOLLAR,	IN THE DISTRICT COURT S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	
4	Plaintiffs,	§ § TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS	
5	vs.	§ FARRANT COOKTT, TEXAS	
6	MARY CUMMINS,	8 8	
7	Defendant Pro se	§ 352nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
8		<u>FIAT</u>	
10	Defendant's DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR TELEPHONIC HEARING was filed on		
11	November, 2012. Defendant requests that the foregoing be set for hearing.		
12	IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that a	nearing before this court on said Motion be set	
13	for the day of	at a.m./p.m. in the 352nd	
14	District Court of Tarrant County, Fort Wort	h, Texas.	
15			
16	Date	·	
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19		Judge Presiding	
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