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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HARDIN COUNTY, TENNESSEE
AT SAVANNAH

CLARK JONES,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 3414

TONY HAYS, CHARLES C. THOMPSON, II,
CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY, a corporation,
RON SHANK and/or JOHN DOE D AND JANE DOE
D, SAVANNAH JOURNAL, LARRY BRINTON,
LANDMARK TELEVISION OF TENNESSEE/NEWS
CHANNEL 5 NETWORK d/b/a WTVF/CHANNEL 5
(NASHVILLE), CHARLOTTE ALEXANDER,
DECATUR COUNTY CHRONICLE, L.L.C.,
REBECCA HAGELIN, WORLDNETDAILY.COM,
INC., WDTM CORPORATION d/b/a CHANNEL 6,
WSIB and WSIB 93.9 FM, SAVANNAH SNITCH,
JOHN DOE E and/or JANE DOE E d/b/a TENNESSEE
RIVER PRESS, H.J. MAXEDON, JOHN DOES A, B,
and C, JANE DOES A, B, and C,

Defendants.

**PLAINTIFF'S FURTHER SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT CENTER
FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY'S INTERROGATORY NOS 2, 4 AND 5 AND
RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY'S
REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS NOS. 8 AND 9**

RE JEFF SECOTT

Comes now the Plaintiff, Clark Jones, by and through counsel, pursuant to the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure 26, 33 and 34, and in further supplemental response to the Defendant, Center for Public Integrity's ("CPI") Interrogatory No. 2, states as follows:

2. With respect to each expert witness you expect to testify on your behalf at trial, identify the expert, state the subject matter and the substance of the facts and opinions on which

the expert is expected to testify, a summary of the ground(s) for each opinion held by the expert, and all other information stated in Tenn. R. Civ. P. 26.02(4)(A)(i).

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE:

(A) Due to the fact that the Defendants, and each of them have steadfastly continued to insist that the false and defamatory statements written about Clark Jones and the statements made concerning Clark Jones' involvement in drug trafficking, obstruction of justice, selling of TVA permits, interfering with law enforcement investigation of drug trafficking, and being on law enforcement lists as "an alleged dope dealer" are "true" when they know the same to be false and due to the failure of the Defendants to retract the statements, the decision has been made by the Plaintiff to engage expert witnesses in the field of journalism. Thus, Plaintiff expects to call as an expert witness in this case, Jeff South, Associate Professor of Mass Communication at Virginia Commonwealth University. Professor South is an expert in journalism and has served as a reporter, editor, and instructor in journalism. He is an expert in journalism ethics. Attached hereto is a copy of Professor South's curriculum vitae which sets forth his qualifications as an expert. It is the opinion of Professor South that, as an expert in journalism, journalism ethics, and duties of reporters and editors who published news articles and, in particular, after reviewing the September 20, 2000 article entitled, "Officials say Gore Killed Drug Probe" as well as other articles published in WorldNetDailey.com and republished in the Decatur County Chronicle, the reporters and editors egregiously violated the accepted standards of practice for professional journalists.

Professor South read the WorldNetDaily.com articles that were written by Thompson and Hays and those republished in the Decatur County Chronicle. He analyzed each paragraph in

those articles that related to Clark Jones to determine whether the information stated in each paragraph was attributed and, if so, whether the source was named or unidentified. He analyzed the allegations made against Jones and searched whether Jones was given an opportunity to respond. He examined the language for fairness and bias and for neutral or “loaded” words. He examined the unattributed points of the September 20, 2000 article both in the lead and at the end, and analyzed whether the information in the story supported the points stated. He compared the results of a paragraph-by-paragraph analysis with ethics codes for various professional news organizations, including the Code of Society of Professional Journalists, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Associated Press Managing Editors, codes from cross-sections of various newspaper as well as applying the accuracy check list applied by reporters and editors at the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer.

After making his analysis, it is the opinion of Professor South that the reporters of the WorldNetDaily.com articles, specifically including the article of September 20, 2000, and the editors at WorldNetDaily.com and the Decatur County Chronicle grossly violated the basic standards of care advocated by professional journalism organizations and practice in reputable newsrooms. It is Professor South’s opinion that there was an overuse of information without attribution or sources and a promiscuous use of unidentified sources. There was a gross failure to provide a reasonable opportunity for Clark Jones to respond to the allegations. It is clear that it does not appear that the reporters asked Jones for nor genuinely sought to include his responses to allegations that:

- Jones took contributions for Gore in return for handing Tennessee Valley Authority permits.

- Jones' access to Gore allowed him to obtain lucrative federal assistance from Gore and his aids.
- The TBI investigation, if there was one, centered on Jones.
- Jones' name was listed on the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's computerized files in the late 1980's and early 1990's as an alleged dope dealer.
- Jones was listed in computerized federal intelligence files as a "suspected dope dealer."
- Jones held a "clandestine meeting" with TBI officials to terminate the alleged investigation.
- Jones went to Gore to have the TBI investigation killed.

It is incumbent upon reporters and if they fail, upon the editor, to give the subject of news stories adequate opportunity and space to respond to the allegations against them. This is repeated in numerous ethic codes. In fact, when scheduling an interview with Clark Jones and Clark Jones requesting that he be allowed to appropriately record the interview, the reporters in this instance refused to allow the reporting of that interview by a certified court reporter. This is evidence of an intentional refusal to obtain the accurate response of the person being impugned.

Professor South is of the opinion that the reporters and editors violated the standards of professional journalistic organizations and reputable reporters by use of unethical techniques to cast suspicion and doubt and in the use of "loaded words" and selective information.

Professor South is of the opinion that there is a lack of support for the main points in the lead and ending paragraphs of the September 20, 2000 story.

In addition, it appears from the affidavits of Benny Austin, Bob Shutt, and Robert Lawson, who swear that they did not provide the information attributed to them, that there was a

possible or probable fabrication of quotes and attribution. Moreover, it appears that Charles C. Thompson, II misrepresented his position with 60 Minutes, and misrepresented statements made by others to obtain responses rather than to fairly obtain facts.

Professor South is of the opinion that WorldNetDaily.com which states that it fully “controls the editorial processes and publication of its news stories” failed grossly in its oversight and editing processes and in its duty to prevent the publication of inadequate, unfair and unbalanced news stories. The WorldNetDaily editorial staff should have recognized the stories’ serious flaws, corrected them if possible and, if not possible, should have stopped the story. The editor should have realized that the story was totally biased, emphasized one side, and relied heavily on innuendos, unattributed information and unidentified sources and that it lacked any adequate response from Clark Jones.

Finally, the editors knew that the main points in the lead and the concluding paragraphs of the story were not supported by the facts set forth in the stories. Under the journalistic standards of care, the WorldNetDaily.com’s editors and the editor at the Decatur County Chronicle should have contacted the reporters and insisted that they correct these problems. Such amounted to a flagrant violation of editorial duties.

As discovery continues in this cause, the opinions of Professor South may be supplemented.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 18th day of February, 2004.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Counsel for the Plaintiff certifies that he has this the 18th day of February, 2004, mailed a true and correct copy of the foregoing to:

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