## REPORTER'S RECORD VOLUME 1 OF 1 VOLUMES TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. DC-08-06217-L

TEMPORARY INJUNCTION HEARING

## **O**RIGINAL

On the 23rd day of June, 2008, the following proceedings came on to be held in the above-titled and numbered cause before the Honorable CARL H. GINSBERG, Judge Presiding, held in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.

Proceedings reported by computerized stenotype machine.

Stephanie Moses, Official Court Reporter 193rd Judicial District Court (T) 214.653.7178 - 214.653.7982 (F)

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# J - Jury

Use is indicated as follows:
y R - Record Only D - Demonstrative
B - Bill of Exceptions

#### DEFENDANT'S EXHIBITS

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	OFFERED	ADMITTED	USE
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## PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: We're here in case 08-06317, the case styled Tim Darnell versus Heather Dobrott, and we are here on an application for a temporary injunction by the plaintiff. We are scheduled for 30 minutes, so we need to go quickly or -- either that or we'll have to continue it.

So we will go ahead and hear announcements from plaintiff and defendant and go right into it.

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, may I approach the bench? I have a copy -- or actually the original of the --

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, may I approach the bench? I have a copy -- or actually the original of the -THE REPORTER: May I have your name, please?
MR. FOSTER: Thomas Foster for the defendant.
THE COURT: Both sides need to make

 $\mbox{MR. CIAROCHI:} \quad \mbox{Jason Charles Ciarochi,} \\ \mbox{counsel for plaintiff and movant, Tim Darnell.} \\$ 

MR. FOSTER: I have the original of the defendant's original answer and defendant's original counterclaim that was filed at 9:39 this morning.

THE COURT: Okay.

 $\mbox{MR. FOSTER:} \quad \mbox{And I also have for you some} \\ \mbox{cases that I would eventually hand to you on prior } -- \\ \mbox{} \mbox{} -- \\ \mbox{} \mbox{} \mbox{} \mbox{} \mbox{} \mbox{} -- \\ \mbox{} \mbox{}$ 

THE COURT: I'm familiar with that, with the

cases on that.

MR. FOSTER: And also the Fantinelli

(phonetic) case, and those will go in the Court's file.

THE COURT: Okay. We'll start with the plaintiff. If you want to make an opening statement, I'll hear a brief one, otherwise you can start with your testimony.

MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. Very briefly, Your Honor. We are seeking a permanent injunction on the basis that -- of plaintiff's complaints, as stated in the petition and affidavit, that defendant has routinely -- and when we say "routinely," we mean more than 1800 times, and probably closer to 2000 times now -- referred to my client on the Internet all over about the last 33 months, Your Honor, which comes out to more than two postings per day on average.

And the reasons why we are seeking a restraint on some of the speech is that this individual has not only continuously slandered my client, calling into question whether he suffers from mental illness, his character for truthfulness, whether he is Satan, Charlie Manson, and others, whether he's committed crimes, whether he has financial problems, and whether he has family problems, these problems have escalated to the point in which defendant has posted comments on the site where it says, "If I find Jack Weinzierl, I will kill him myself," and we think that that's not healthy, that it's not good to

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encourage third parties to commit torts and so on.

Additionally, defendant has exhibited some stalker-type behaviors inasmuch as, from what she posted on the Internet, not only did she appear at a conference anonymously, but she's also called in under various pseudonyms, and she's also discussing going and speaking to plaintiff's pastor, going to plaintiff's minor's daughter's school and so on.

As already established in the affidavit, defendant followed up on these threats, and actually went and spoke to third parties at plaintiff's daughter's school at Allen High School regarding plaintiff. And we propose to show that we have a probable right to relief and recovery under the torts of invasion of privacy, defamation, probably conspiracy, because we think that she's encouraging third parties to commit illicit acts and so on, and that because of that we ask the Court to limit her speech.

We think the way in which we can meet all the prior restraint case law is to execute the order that we've proposed, and I'll give a copy to the Court and opposing counsel, and that order has the least restrictive means. Defendant can have her own website that does not inappropriately use plaintiff's name in the title of the website, or in the domain itself, and with that website she can have a secure log-on I.D. so that we don't have these

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irreparable harm issues of not knowing who the slander was communicated to -- or, sorry, who the defamation was communicated to, what the response was and so on.

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And we think that that's a very restricted means, but if the Court signed an order that we propose, then she would have a forum for some of her comments without my client suffering from the downside of not preserving the status quo, that we won't know which individuals were affected or how, because otherwise my client's unable to calculate damages and so on.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. FOSTER: I was going to object, Your Honor, it seems like Mr. Ciarochi is, you know, going from making his opening statement to making his closing argument all in one shot here without even putting on any evidence.

THE COURT: Well, I've heard it. Do you care to make an opening statement?

MR. FOSTER: I'll wait until we put on our evidence, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Plaintiff can call its first witnesses.

MR. CIAROCHI: Plaintiff calls Tim Darnell.

THE COURT: Okav. Mr. Darnell, if you'll come to the witness stand.

MR. CIAROCHI: I'm going to approach the

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plaintiff and hand him a copy of an exhibit that we have as to the affidavits, because we'll be introducing them with our time limitations. It will be faster that way. TIMOTHY DARNELL,

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. CIAROCHI:

- Q. Can you state your name for the record, please?
- A. Timothy Spencer Darnell.
- And Mr. Darnell, have you ever met the defendant, Ms. Dobrott, in person, as far as you know?
  - I never have, first time.
- Okay. So you never had any contractual agreements with her?
  - A. No.
  - And no family relationships that you know of?
  - Not that I know of.
  - Q. And is it -- with your testimony today,
- approximately how many postings do you believe Ms. Dobrott has made that referenced you on the Internet?

MR. FOSTER: Objection, Your Honor, no predicate laid for that question; also calls for hearsay. THE COURT: Overruled.

THE WITNESS: Approximately 2000 that we know

of.

(BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. And if you can look at what's been marked as Exhibit A, and all references are to the affidavit that's already on file. Excuse me.

Okay. Well, what -- for the purposes of counsel, it was previously marked as Exhibit A, now it's going to be potentially Exhibit Number 1.

In Exhibit A. did defendant state that you were insane and clearly delusional?

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, I object to that, he's calling for -- he's calling for testimony based on something that's not admitted into evidence, and it's hearsay, it calls for hearsay testimony by the witness.

THE COURT: Well, to the extent it's not been offered vet, sustained on the basis it hasn't been offered vet.

MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, in the interest of saving us time, unless we want to call defendant first. I don't think they're going to deny that they've made any of these statements. I think it will save everyone's time. unless you're not going to -- is there some defense related to the fact that y'all did not make these statements, because your pleadings say that everything is substantially

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, plaintiff has the burden of proof, and he has -- the plaintiff has the burden

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of putting on the evidence in an admissible manner, admissible form.

> THE COURT: Well, you want to go forward? MR. CIAROCHI: Sure.

Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Has defendant in the past said that you were insane or clearly delusional?

MR. FOSTER: Same objections, Your Honor, calls for hearsay. Also objection on the grounds there's no predicate laid by that question to ask how he would know.

THE COURT: Well, overruled because this is a different question of what the document says. He just says, Did defendant say that, and that would be an admission by a party opponent, and if you want to cross-examine him to get to the bottom of it, you can do that on your cross-examination.

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, I would object to -on the grounds that the document speaks for itself, and the document has not been admitted into evidence.

THE COURT: Right, but the question didn't say, What did the document say, the question just said, Did the defendant say that, and that's the distinction, so your objection is overruled.

MR. FOSTER: Objection on the grounds of hearsay, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And that's been overruled.

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(BY MR. CIAROCHI) What's your answer, Mr. Darnell?
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          Α.
               Yes.
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              Okay. Did defendant also say that you had
    characteristics similar to Charlie Manson?
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             Yes.
          Α.
          Q. Okay. Did defendant post these messages on a
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     website called scam.com?
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          Α.
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              Okay. Can you identify what's marked as -- or
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     what you have before you that's marked as Exhibit A that we
     hope to mark as Exhibit 1?
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              I don't see A. Oh, here, yes, I do.
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               Is that a posting from scam.com?
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          Α.
               This is from advantageconferencestruth.com.
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              Okay. And that is a website that you believe to
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     be owned by defendant?
17
              Yes.
          Α.
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          Q. Okay. If we go to Exhibit B, is Exhibit B a
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     website from scam.com or advantageconferencestruth.com?
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                    MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, I object on the
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     grounds that this is -- he's asking for testimony from a
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     document that has not been offered into evidence, and it's
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     calling for hearsay testimony by this witness, and it's also
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     inadmissible.
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                    THE COURT: Hold on.
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1 MR. FOSTER: They need to offer this into 2 evidence if they want to try and use that. 3 THE COURT: Okay. My understanding, the 4 question was -- can you repeat your question again? I just 5 want to make sure I got it exactly as phrased. MR. CIAROCHI: With regards to Exhibit B, 7 whether it was a true and correct copy of a website posting 8 from scam.com for Exhibit B. 9 THE COURT: Okay. The objection's overruled. 10 MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, may I take this 11 witness on voir dire? 12 THE COURT: No, you can do it on your cross. 13 MR. FOSTER: Because, Your Honor, we believe 14 that --15 THE COURT: That's overruled. 16 (BY MR. CIAROCHI) And maybe to save us time, do all 17 the exhibits that are before you that were previously marked 18 with your affidavit, A through P, are they all copies of 19 website postings that you're complaining about in this lawsuit 20 that you believe that defendant did? 21 A. That is correct. Q. Okay. Looking at the individual website postings, 22 23 is it -- do Exhibits A and B call into question whether you 24 suffer from mental illness?

THE COURT: Well, those documents -- the 1 2 documents haven't been admitted yet, so if you want to testify to the contents of the documents, they're not in evidence. MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. Your Honor, at this point we'll offer Exhibits A through P. 7 THE REPORTER: Did you say "A through P"? 8 MR. CIAROCHI: A through P. They're before him, and then we'll -- if we can get them all in at once 9 10 over the same issue objection, it might be quicker that way. 11 THE COURT: Well, the only ones I've heard 12 authenticated, I think, are A and B. 13 MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. 14 (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. Are all exhibits before you 15 Exhibits -- currently labeled A through P, are they all 16 Internet postings that you're complaining about in this 17 lawsuit? 18 A. That is correct. 19 MR. FOSTER: Objection. Your Honor, object 20 to the question as overbroad, it goes through A through Z, 21 or whatever the last letter was. It's also leading the 22 witness, and, Your Honor, we'd like to take this question --23 this witness on voir dire to show that there is a high 24 degree of questionableness about whether or not these are 25 actually in the same form that they exist on the Internet.

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We believe that these documents have been altered and cut and pasted, and then put into this exhibit form.

THE COURT: Overruled.

 $\mbox{MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. So, Your Honor, we} \label{eq:mr.}$  offer Exhibits A through P at this time.

THE COURT: A and B are admitted. I haven't heard anything on C through P as to whether they are an admission by a party opponent.

MR. CIAROCHI: Okay.

- Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Are -- I guess to deal with the documents that deal with your character for truthfulness, Exhibits C, E, and F, are Exhibits C, E, and F all true copies that fairly and accurately depict the statements that you're complaining of in this lawsuit?
  - Yes, they are.
- Q. Okay. And in Exhibit C, did the defendant call you a lying sack of dirt?
  - A. Yes, she did.

MR. FOSTER: Which exhibit was that?

MR. CIAROCHI: C and in Charlie.

Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) In Exhibit E, did defendant call you a dishonest dirtbag?

- A. Which one?
- Q. E as in Eddie.
- A. "You dishonest dirtbag."

MR. FOSTER: Objection, Your Honor, leading.

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             Okay. In Exhibit F, did defendant say that "you
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     know nothing of honesty"?
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               In Exhibit -- is Exhibit C a true and correct copy
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     of a web posting whereby defendant accused you of being
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                    MR. FOSTER: Which exhibit is that?
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                    MR. CIAROCHI: C as in "Charlie."
                    MR. FOSTER: What was the question?
                    MR. CIAROCHI: Did defendant call plaintiff
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     Satan within that exhibit?
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                    THE WITNESS: "Timmy's demonic, evil dictator
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     behavior."
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          Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. In Exhibit L, is that a
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     true and correct copy of a web posting whereby defendant
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     accused you of a crime?
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                    MR. FOSTER: I'm going to object to that
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     question, Your Honor, as leading the witness and being vaque
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     and ambiguous.
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                    THE COURT: Overruled.
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                    THE WITNESS: Yes.
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               (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Is the crime stealing from
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     charities?
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              Yes, and defrauding folks out of money.
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          Q. Okay. And if you look at Exhibits G and H, are
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1 those web postings that falsely refer to your involvement in 2 a bankruptcy matter and not paying a very large hotel bill? 3 A. That is correct. 4 MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, at this point we'd 5 like to offer Exhibits C, E, F, G, J and L. 6 THE COURT: Any objections? . 7 MR. FOSTER: Same objections as before, Your 8 Honor. THE COURT: Overruled, and those are 10 admitted. 11 ο. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okav. In Exhibit D. did defendant 12 make references that you were having family problems, and that your family thought you were a fraud and so on? 13 "A spouse that thinks you are stupid, inept and 14 15 unconcerned, disgusted with your ever desperate financial situation." 16 17 MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, at this point we'd 18 like to offer Exhibit D. 19 THE COURT: You said D? 20 MR. CIAROCHI: D as in dog. 21 THE COURT: Any objection? 22 Hearing none, D is admitted. 23 (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. Mr. Darnell, do you know of any mental illness that you suffer from? 24 25

Do you deny the various defamatory statements that 2 we discussed, including the statements that you are the 3 devil? 4 A. I deny that. 5 Okay. Do you deny the statements that portray your finances as "not doing well"? A. I denv that. Q. Is it specifically untrue that you were a 9 shareholder in a company that had filed bankruptcy at that 10 time? 11 That is correct. 12 Q. Okay. And do you deny that you're suffering 13 from -- or you or your family are suffering from problems 14 because of your business or other things? 15 A. I deny that. 16 Q. Let's talk a little bit about the language in 17 Exhibit P, the language that says, "When I find Jack Weinzierl, I will kill him myself." Is this a website 18 19 that -- or web posting that you know defendants to have 20 posted comments on? 21 A. Yes, it is. Okay. And for the Court's reference, do you 23 believe that Soap Box Mom is the Internet post that is also 24 known as Heather Dobrott? 25 Yes, that is correct.

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A. Absolutely.

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MR. FOSTER: Which exhibit are you looking
at, counselor?
              MR. CIAROCHI: We were referring to Exhibit
P. It may be the very last exhibit.
              Your Honor, at this point we'd like to offer
Exhibit P.
               MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, Exhibit P. I
believe, is misleading in the sense that it's not Soap Box
Mom that made that statement.
              MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, we'd like to offer
it for the reference that she's responding on a message
board where the subject discusses killing someone.
              THE COURT: Well, I'll admit it, and I'll --
P is admitted, and I'll read the whole thing and find out
    Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Mr. Darnell, did defendant call
speakers at one of your conferences and try to dissuade them
from coming and speaking?
    A. That is correct.
    Q. Okay. Did that affect the overall conference
attendance?
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Q. Okay. Did defendants later on brag on the

Internet about attempting to destroy your business?

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Q. Okay. And do the big volumes of Exhibits M and O
generally discuss over the last few months defendant's
alleged plans to discuss you with your minor daughters at
Allen High School?
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## A. That is correct.

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family?

MR. FOSTER: Objection, Your Honor, the question is overbroad and is leading the witness.

THE COURT: Overruled.

(BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. And with Exhibit N, did defendant actually brag about going to your high school and humiliating your family?

#### A. That is correct.

MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. Your Honor, at that time point we'd like to offer Exhibits M, N, and O.

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, we object to the admission of the exhibits on the grounds that we don't believe that they've shown a proper authenticity for the

THE COURT: M, N and O are admitted.

- (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Let's talk about the imminent harm ο. issues here. How did you and your family react to finding out that defendant went to your daughter's high school?
  - A. Like everything else, we were shocked.
- Q. And do you feel that without filing this lawsuit that there was no way to have a civil forum and enter into

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admitted. I believe we've laid a foundation for every one of them.

A. Absolutely.

many, many times here.

21 which --

> THE REPORTER: Everything but H, I, or K is admitted.

And the websites that discuss whether it's

appropriate to visit your school, to speak with your pastor,

A. She has openly encouraged third parties to sue me,

to kill Jack Weinzierl if they found him and so on, I take

to call speakers, to call reps, to call anybody associated

with me, to call my father, it just goes on and on, it never

Q. And the last thing, we didn't discuss Exhibit I.

I believe Exhibit I is the web posting that says "stop this

conference." Is it true that she actually posted on the

Internet that they would like to stop your conference?

to make sure that all exhibits between A through P are

it that it's your testimony that you think that's

encouraging third parties to commit criminal acts?

THE COURT: Okav.

MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, we'll just ask to

MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. Your Honor, we'd like

THE COURT: I'll ask the court reporter,

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some order whereby defendant would not find you or your

- I know of no other venue.
- Q. And in dealing with the nature of defamatory Internet postings, do you -- do you -- can you explain to the Court the difficulty of determining who learned messages that they read on the Internet?
- Well, they're open to the public, all issues are open to the public, anybody can read these, and, in fact, that's what they are generally designed to do, to be open to the public. They don't get taken down, they stay on the Internet, and so they are a consistent part of your life when they're posted.
- Q. And with regards to having a secure website whereby individuals could discuss certain topics, but register with their name and address so that you could find out who was told and what was told, would you find that would be a fair way to allow a forum for free speech, and yet still preserve the status quo and know who has been harmed in this lawsuit and who hasn't?
- A. That would certainly be an improvement. I have no problem with dissention or differing opinions from mine. People that are opposed to me, that's fine, I have no problem with free speech. It's when it comes down to a -it comes down to a point. It's crossed the line certainly

offer I then?

THE COURT: I'm sorry?

MR. CIAROCHI: Since we just laid the foundation, we'll just ask to offer I, and not worry about the H or K at this time.

THE COURT: Okay. I is admitted.

Can I see P, please?

MR. CIAROCHI: Yes.

Your Honor, we will pass the witness.

THE COURT: Okay.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. FOSTER:

- Mr. Darnell, where do you live? Q.
- Α. 1513 Home Park Drive, Allen, Texas.
  - How long have you lived in Allen, Texas?
  - Α. Since 1992, February of '92.
- Q. Where did you grow up?
- A. Excuse me, excuse me, that's not true, I lived Allen in '90.
  - ο. Where did you grow up, Mr. Darnell?
- A. I grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina, for the most part.
  - 0. Are you a citizen of the United States?
  - - Okay. Do you recall ever giving an affidavit

before where you stated you were not a citizen of the United States?

A. An affidavit that pointed out the difference in the spelling of the United States of America.

MR. CIAROCHI: Objection, Your Honor, relevance.

THE COURT: Overruled.

Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) Mr. Darnell, I'm handing you a document that's been marked as Defendant's Exhibit 1. Can you identify that document?

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, here's a copy for the Court. It's the first paragraph.

- Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) Is that your signature on page 10 of the affidavit, Mr. Darnell?
  - A. Yes, it is.

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- Q. Okay. So this is an affidavit you did sign?
- A. That is correct.

MR. FOSTER: And, Your Honor, we offer this in evidence as evidence Exhibit 1.

THE COURT: Defendant's 1 is admitted.

- (BY MR. FOSTER) Okay. Now, Mr. Darnell, on line 3 in paragraph 1 of the document, you state that you're specifically not a resident of the United States of America; is that right?
  - A. That is correct.

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So, one of the issues involved in this case is your reputation, is that correct, Mr. Darnell?

Yes, it is.

So you gave testimony today here, under oath, that you were a United States citizen, and you gave contradictory testimony in this affidavit that you were not a United States citizen; is that correct?

A. It has to do with the spelling of the name.

- Q. Just answer the question. Did you say in this affidavit, yes or no, that you were not a citizen of the United States?
  - A. All caps, that's correct.
  - Were you lying when you gave the --
  - I was telling the truth. Α.
  - -- affidavit --

THE COURT: Wait, wait, hold on.

Sir, you can't interrupt him because the court reporter can't take both at the same time, you have to let him finish his question.

(BY MR. FOSTER) My question is: Were you telling the truth when you gave your affidavit, or were you telling the truth when you gave your testimony here in front of Judge Ginsberg?

- Q. So your testimony here in front of the Judge is

you were telling the truth the whole time?

That is correct.

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Mr. Darnell, I'm handing you now a document which has been marked as Defendant's Exhibit 2. Is it true that those are copies of materials that are put on the Advantage Conferences Internet website --

MR. CIAROCHI: Objection --

- (BY MR. FOSTER) -- or have been over time?
- Yes, it is true.

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, we offer those in.

(BY MR. FOSTER) Mr. Darnell, are you -- have you any affiliation or association with a company called Advantage Conferences, LLC?

> Α. Yes.

0. What is your connection to the company?

President and founder and owner.

How long have you been president of that company?

June of 2003.

٥. And are you still the president of that company?

Yes. I am.

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, we ask that Exhibit 2 be admitted into evidence.

MR. CIAROCHI: No objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Two's admitted.

Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) And Exhibit 2, Mr. Darnell --

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MR. CIAROCHI: Or, hold on. Your Honor, evidently there's something beyond Exhibit 2. The past three pages are something other than what he puts on the Internet. I seems that they go somewhere to page 14 and 15, and then there's something else that you didn't put on the Internet.

MR. FOSTER: Let me ask him.

MR. CIAROCHI: Sure.

(BY MR. FOSTER) Are the last two pages of Exhibit 2 things that appear on the Internet, Mr. Darnell?

MR. CIAROCHI: I see there's handwriting, for starters.

MR. FOSTER: Aside from the handwriting on the last two pages. It's in the margin.

THE WITNESS: Yes. This was in 2005 this appeared.

Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) So taken as a whole, Exhibit 2 are materials that Advantage Conferences puts on its website; is that correct?

Α. Correct.

Q. And these are things that they put on their website, they have people read them on the Internet; is that correct?

A. Correct.

THE COURT: Hold on real quick.

Two will be admitted, except for the handwriting, at this time. If you want to ask him if he wrote it, otherwise -- the handwriting is not going to be admitted, and then other than that 2's admitted.

We don't need to redact it, I just won't consider the handwriting.

- (BY MR. FOSTER) Mr. Darnell, isn't it fair to say that Advantage Software, LLC (sic) is a company that reps what's called a multi level marketing business?
  - A. It is a direct sales company.

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- And what Advantage Conferences, LLC sells is supposedly is conferences, educational conferences; is that correct?
- A. Yes, conferences and mentoring, ongoing mentoring, training.
- O. And the purpose of this particular document, Exhibit 2, is to try and to get people to come on board and work for Advantage Conferences, LLC as sales representatives, correct?
  - That is correct.
- Q. Isn't it true that people that come to work for Advantage Conferences, LLC as sales representatives get paid more the more people they can sign up to work with them, or for them as additional sales reps for Advantage Conferences, LLC --

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- A. That is incorrect.
- ο. How is that incorrect?
- Because signing somebody up means nothing. Enrolling more people means nothing. The only thing that means anything is the sale of the product.
- Q. But isn't it true that if the additional people they do sign up are able to generate sales, that means more money for the people that sign them up?
  - A. Certainly. In any company that is true.
- Q. Now, isn't it true that the Better Business Bureau of Dallas, Metropolitan Dallas, stated in a lawsuit that Advantage Conferences, the head of its Better Business Bureau, that there was evidence that this company that you're involved with was running an illegal pyramid scheme?
- Their verbiage is they're investigating to see if we were running an illegal -- running a pyramid scheme.
  - Q. Isn't it true that --
- Running a pyramid -- excuse me, running a pyramid, A. that's the exact language.
- Isn't it true that their website stated that there was an illegal pyramid scheme?

THE COURT: Hold on.

MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, that language has been removed a long time ago. I believe the language says

1 that they are running an investigation. 2 THE COURT: Well, it's hearsay. I'll sustain 3 the objection. MR. FOSTER: I think he already admitted that. THE COURT: There was an objection sustained. I'm not considering the guestion or the answer. 8 MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, at this point we want to object for relevance. If we're worried about 9 10 defamation, visiting families and so on, we're not having a whole second line of questioning about plaintiff's business 11 12 when plaintiff sued as an individual. 13 THE COURT: Well, part of your basis goes to 14 his business, so I think you put his business into the 15 business credibility issue. 16 MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. But if -- we aren't 17 complaining about those particular statements, we're more 18 worried about third parties either killing, approaching or 19 discussing my client's ruin constantly. 20 THE COURT: I think by seeking your 21 application, you put this at issue, so --22 MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. 23 THE COURT: From a housekeeping standpoint, 24 other than plaintiff, does plaintiff have any other 25 witnesses it intends to call?

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MR. CIAROCHI: Other than seeing if she identifies herself as the poster and all that, no.

THE COURT: Okay.

- Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) I'm handing you now Defendant's Exhibit 3, Mr. Darnell, are those additional pages of documents that would have appeared on Advantage Conferences, LLC's website?

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MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, we offer Defendant's Exhibit 3 into evidence.

MR. CIAROCHI: No objection.

THE COURT: Three's admitted.

- (BY MR. FOSTER) Mr. Darnell, isn't the basic gist of both Defendant's Exhibits 2 and 3 that if people sign up as sales representatives for Advantage Conferences, LLC, they'll make money at \$7,000 a pop over and over again?
  - That's the potential.
- What's that? ο.
  - That is the potential.
- Isn't it true that those materials that are Exhibits 2 and 3 make it seem very easy for that to be achieved by the people signing up as sales representatives?
- A. We do not -- we outlaw the word "easy," we do not use that in our company. Business is not easy. No business

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ο. How much -- and isn't it true that Advantage Conferences, LLC encourages the people to buy into Advantage Conferences, LLC at about \$10,000 to maximize their sales profits, potential; is that correct?

A. They have the option to do that if they prefer to. If that's their option and they decide to do it, yes.

Q. But isn't that something that you tell them, that this is what we recommend for you to do to have the best chance at making lots of money?

A. I'm thinking in any company you have to know your product. If you don't know your product, you're going to have a decreased opportunity of maximizing your business.

Q. But that wasn't my question. My question was: Isn't it true that you recommend to these prospective sales representatives that they pay the \$10,000 rather than five or \$600 in order to maximize their sales profits?

I think it's better. We do not push them into Α. that at all.

Q. But you recommend it to them, is that correct?

We recommend that you should know your product, Α. yes.

And you recommend that they should pay the \$10,000; is that correct?

A. We do not say that overtly.

Q. And you've had numerous people that have asked and

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demanded their money back from you because of what they claim were misleading and deceptive sales tactics by you in getting them to sign up as sales representatives; isn't that true?

A. We've had very few.

Q. Okay. How many would you say here under oath today that complained and asked for a refund, Mr. Darnell?

A. We've probably had six or seven.

Q. Are you sure?

No, I'm not sure, I'm not sure. You said, Would you estimate. I would guess six or seven.

Q. So you've been the president of Advantage Conferences, LLC since the inception of that company; is that correct?

A. That is correct.

Q. Mr. Darnell, I'm handing you now Defendant's Exhibit 4. Is that a lawsuit -- is that a petition that you had your lawyer, Mr. Ciarochi, who is here today, file on behalf of Advantage Conferences, LLC?

A. Yes.

Q. And you filed that lawsuit against the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Dallas; is that correct?

That is correct.

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, we ask that that document be admitted into evidence.

MR. CIAROCHI: Inasmuch --

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. CIAROCHI: Our only objection is inasmuch as it's only noting another lawsuit was filed, we don't

MS. DOBROTT: It's probably directly online. THE COURT: I'm sorry, ma'am, you have an

attorney, you have to speak through your attorney.

I'll admit it, but -- what's it going to be,

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MR. FOSTER: Yeah, Defense 4. I'll bring the relevance more into play here, Your Honor.

(BY MR. FOSTER) Isn't it true, Mr. Darnell, you sued the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Dallas for several reasons; isn't that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. And one of the reasons that you sued the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Dallas, Mr. Darnell, was that they had a statement on the Better Business Bureau of Dallas website that they had evidence that there was an illegal pyramid scheme being conducted by Advantage . Conferences, LLC; is that correct?

A. Their verbiage is they are conducting an investigation.

But you sued them because they had information, at

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least on their website, they were conducting an investigation as to whether your company was running a ponzi scheme, or an illegal pyramid scheme, correct?

A. I objected to the verbiage, yes.

Q. In fact, it's specifically referred to in page -on paragraph 12 on page 7 of that lawsuit; is that correct?

THE COURT: Your Honor, we have one objection. Inasmuch as we filed suit and the BBB softened their language. I believe that counsel is referring to the heavier language. The ponzi scheme language has been removed. The language is -- they're only investigating whether they're conducting an illegal pyramid scheme, and they've been doing that for four or five years with no conclusion.

The references to ponzi scheme are not on the Internet, were off once the suit was filed and so on, so that issue wasn't before the Court because they fixed it, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Overruled.

Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) Mr. Darnell, is it your testimony here under oath that the language about pyramid scheme has been completely removed from the website for the Better Business Bureau?

A. I don't think the term "scheme" is in there. I think "pyramid" is in there.

THE COURT: We've gone over this. I've heard enough evidence as to whether or not there's an allegation and what the allegations are.

- Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) And don't you believe that's the type of thing that might catch the eye of perspective sales representatives that are thinking about purchasing a membership or participating in the Advantage Conferences business?
  - A. Yes.

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- Q. So you think -- and isn't it -- so wouldn't it be logical and follow that that's the type of thing that would be relevant and have an effect on the reputation of Advantage Conferences, LLC?
  - Yes. A.
- Q. And so doesn't it also follow that that's the type of thing that would have an effect and relate to the reputation of the officers of that company?
  - Α.
- Q. So it would effect your -- your question -- your reputation was brought into question by these postings on the website?
  - A. Correct.
- So -- so at least for the last couple years your reputation hasn't been in question; is that right?
  - A. My character is not in question.

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- Your reputation has been put into question at issue by the postings on the Dallas Business Better Bureau website; isn't that correct?
- A. They put the word "pyramid" there, and I object to it, yes.
- But your reputation has been put at risk and at issue by the postings on the Dallas Better Business Bureau website, right?
  - Yes. A.
- Q. What was the name of the company that you were accused of -- the bankrupt company that you were accused or referenced of having an ownership interest in?
  - A. All-Star Entrepreneur, LLC.
- And that is a company that you admit did go into bankruptcy?
  - Α. Yes.
- And your testimony here under oath today is that you had no ownership interest in that company?
  - A. That is correct.
- Okay. What connection did you have with that company?
- Α. I was the former president and third owner of that company.
  - Q. Okay. When did you first start with that company?
  - September of 2001. A.

- Q. Okay. And how long were you the president of that company?
  - Through June of 2003.
- 0. So you were the president of the company from 2001 to 2003; is that correct?
  - That is correct.
- Okay. And do you know when they filed for bankruptcv?
- I'm sure you have that. I don't have that exact date there.
  - So sometime in 2003; is that right? ο.
- Α. No.

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- Q. Sometime in 2004?
- I think 2004. 14 A.
  - And isn't it true that that particular company left a -- several unpaid, unsecured creditors?
    - Α. That is correct.
  - And isn't it true that those creditors included several hotels where the conferences of that company were conducted?
    - A. I'm not sure.
- 22 Q. And were you involved -- did you -- were you 23 involved in any conferences that were conducted at the 24 Sheraton in Maui?
  - Α. No.

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- Okay. How about the Marriott in San Antonio? Q.
- Α. Yes.
- ο. How about the Hilton Renaissance in San Diego?
- A. I believe that's correct.
- Okay. So at least some of those hotels that you were involved with running those -- the seminars for the company, were conducted at hotels that weren't paid. correct?
  - That's correct. A.
- Q. And you didn't -- and you didn't -- and they weren't paid while you were the president of the company?
  - A. That is correct.

THE COURT: Counsel, we're either going to have to wrap up or we're going to have to reschedule this, because this is allotted for a 30 minute schedule, and we're running into other cases. So I'll leave that up to v'all. otherwise we'll just -- you know, we can do this over the lunch hour or something. We'll do it sometime today.

MR. CIAROCHI: Well, Your Honor, we're willing to stick around and do it during lunch hour, whatever the Court wants to do to finish this off, unless we can agree to language in between.

MR. FOSTER: We can talk about it, Your Honor. Maybe we can come up with some kind of agreement.

(Luncheon recess)

THE COURT: This is a continuation of the temporary injunction hearing.

- Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) Mr. Darnell, I'm handing you Defendant's Exhibit 5. Is the language in the top  $\ensuremath{\text{--}}$  I believe it's the top -- aren't these all Internet postings that you've made on the Internet?
  - That is correct, yes.
- And these are all things that you've posted on the 0. Internet?
  - A. Correct.

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- And these all relate to Ms. Dobrott? I'm sorry? ο.
- Mainly attacks in general. A.
- But it does relate to Ms. Dobrott? Q.
- Some of that would, yeah, yes.

MR. FOSTER: We'll offer Defendant's Exhibit 5 into evidence, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. 5's admitted.

MR. FOSTER: And this is a communication that

Mr. Darnell posted on the Internet about Ms. Dobrott.

- (BY MR. FOSTER) Mr. Darnell, we were talking earlier about the lawsuit that Advanced Conferences, LLC filed against the Better Business Bureau; do you remember that?
  - A.
- Q. And one of the allegations you made in that lawsuit, or Advantage Conferences made in that lawsuit, was

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that the Better Business Bureau had defamed Advantage Conferences by stating information in the website, or on the website about them having evidence that there was a pyramid or a pyramid scheme being conducted by Advantage Conferences?

- The use of the term "pyramid" is what I objected to.
- This was part of the lawsuit? Q.
  - A.
- Q. And you alleged in that lawsuit that Advantage Conferences had been harmed by the use of that language on their website?
  - A. Correct, yes.
- And have you seen Exhibit 6, which I'm handing you Q. now?
  - Yes, summary judgment, yes. Α.
- In the second paragraph of that order it states that the summary judgment was granted in all respects; is that correct?
  - A. Correct.

MR. FOSTER: Your Honor, I would offer Defendant's Exhibit 6 into evidence.

THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. CIAROCHI: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Six is admitted.

- ο. (BY MR. FOSTER) So the Court ruled in that case that you didn't have any grounds for suing them for including that language on the website; is that correct?
  - I think that's what that means.
- Q. How many different representatives from Advantage Conferences have demanded they receive their money back from you?
  - Α. Did we not just discuss that?
    - Do you remember what you told me the last time?
    - I think six or seven, I had no idea.
- How about Michael White, did he -- does that name ring a bell?
  - A.
  - Q. Did he receive a refund?
- Α.

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- Q. Why did you pay the money back to him?
- 17 Because we had a policy that if you came up after 18 the conference and you felt like you didn't get your money's 19 worth, then we would give you a refund.
  - How about Zina Carolyn (phonetic), did she get her refund?
    - Α.
    - Q. Okav. Why didn't she get a refund?
    - She didn't attend the conference. She didn't comply with the refund policy.

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Did she complain to you about the deceptive, misleading advertising of Advantage Conferences?

MR. CIAROCHI: Objection, Your Honor, counsel for defense is also counsel for plaintiff in another case involving Mr. Darnell's company, and so I don't see the relevance of trying to link the two lawsuits now.

MR. FOSTER: I think there is a link.

THE COURT: Overruled.

THE WITNESS: What was the question?

- (BY MR. FOSTER) Did she complain to you about the deceptive and misleading advertising of Advantage Conferences?
- ο. So your testimony under oath is that you never received complaints from --
- A. I received complaints, but her complaints were about getting a refund.
- And so she never made complaints to you about the misleading or deceptive nature of the advertising of Advantage Conferences, is that your testimony under oath?
  - Correct.
- Q. How many representatives does your -- Advantage Conferences currently have?

MR. CIAROCHI: Objection, Your Honor,

relevance.

THE COURT: Overruled.

1 THE WITNESS: Approximately 100. 2 (BY MR. FOSTER) Okay. And is that about the same as it was, say, two years ago? 4 A. No. 5 Q. How many representatives did Advantage Conferences have two years ago? 7 A. Approximately 300. . 8 Three hundred. And let's say two years before that, was it about the same, 300, two years -- or four years 10 ago? 3.1 Α. Four years ago, no. 12 0. How many represents did you have four years ago? 13 14 ο. So in the last two years you've gone from 300 to 15 100; isn't that correct? 16 A. That's correct. 17 Q. But isn't it true that you really -- about two 18 years ago you had almost 600 represents? 19 I don't know the exact numbers. 20 Is that possible? 21 We had hundreds. 22 Q. Okay. So it could very well be a lot more than 23 300: is that correct? 24 A. Probably, yes. 25 Q. And isn't it true that the advertising materials

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you have on Advantage Conferences's website states that your business is growing and it's a great opportunity for people

A. Correct.

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- Q. And you have that information on the website even though the number of your represents has contracted greatly in the last two years?
  - A. I don't know if it's on there now or not.
- Q. And isn't it true that the fact that the representatives has gone down from 300 or more down to 100 in the last two years is indicative of the fact that your business is not growing?
- $\hbox{A.} \quad \hbox{I think any business goes up and down in volume,} \\$   $\hbox{that's always true, there's always fluctuation.}$
- $\ensuremath{\mathtt{Q}}.$  So you would consider going from 300 or more down to 100 would be just a fluctuation?
- A. Yes, I don't consider that a defeat, and I'm not going to quit.
  - Q. Do you consider that significant?

MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, this whole line of questioning is not going to whether the statements that were complained of are true or false. This is just talking about the size of the business and --

THE COURT: I think we're getting off base.

Sustained.

Q.	(BY MR.	FOSTER)	Do you	belong	to a	church	in	Allen
Texas, kr	own as t	he Cotto	nwood C	reek Ba	ptist	Church	?	

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- Q. How long have you been a member of that church?
- A. About five years.
- $\ensuremath{\mathtt{Q}}.$  Do you know a gentleman by the name of Paul Ernst (phonetic)?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Did Paul Ernst do some website development work for your company?
  - A. He started.
- 12 Q. Okay. And did he -- he started?
- A. He started. He never completed it.
  - Q. He didn't. Okay. And did he send you an invoice for \$12,000?

 $$\operatorname{MR}$. CIAROCHI:$ Objection, Your Honor, is any of this even posted on the Internet that we're complaining of 2.$ 

### THE COURT: Overruled.

- Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) So you did use Mr. Ernsts' services for developing a website; is that correct?
  - A. We did not. We ended up not using him.
- 23 Q. Oh, so he sent you an invoice for \$12,000 for no services having been rendered?
  - A. None that I used.

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 $\label{eq:Q.Q.Q.1} \textbf{Q.} \quad \text{So your testimony under oath here is that he} \\ \text{didn't do anything for you?}$ 

A. I didn't use anything he did. He got the name of my company wrong. He didn't get the name of the company right.

- Q. Did he spend time working for the development of the website for Advantage Conferences?
- $\label{eq:A.Possibly.} \mbox{ It never went up on the Web, nothing} \\ \mbox{was posted.}$ 
  - Q. Okay. Did he --

 $\label{eq:MR. CIAROCHI: Objection, Your Honor, once again, relevance. \\$ 

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$$  FOSTER: This goes to his reputation, Your Honor.

## THE COURT: Overruled.

- Q. (BY MR. FOSTER) Okay. So this is a gentleman who provided \$12,000 of services, at least in his opinion, and you didn't pay him anything, did you?
- A. I did pay him.
- $\label{eq:Q. Advantage Conferences pay him for his services?}$ 
  - A. I don't know.
  - Q. You don't know?
  - A. I don't know.
  - Q. Okay. I mean, is it -- isn't it true that he

ined.

claims that Advantage Conferences still owes him \$12,000? A. I don't think so. I've not seen anything. I go to church with him all the time and say "hey" to him all the

Q. And isn't it true that when he --

A. That's true.

Q. -- persisted in trying to get paid his \$12,000 that he claimed was owed, you sent Mr. Ernst and his wife a letter which said something along the lines of, Your children will wish you had never been born?

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Q. Isn't that true?

No. that is not true. A.

You swear under oath that that's not true?

That's not true.

Okay. Isn't it true that Mr. and Mrs. Ernst had to send the police to your house to tell you to quit bothering them?

A. They told me not to make threats.

Q. Okay. The police came to your house and told you to quit --

Α. I got a phone call.

Q. -- threatening the --

A. I got a phone call. I got a phone call.

THE COURT: Sir, you're going to have to wait

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until he's done.

THE WITNESS: I apologize.

(BY MR. FOSTER) So you admit that the police communicated with you and told you that you needed to quit threatening the Ernst; is that correct?

A. That is correct, his perceived threat.

Q. Apparently the police thought it was serious enough to get involved; is that correct?

A. They have to.

O. Now, do you run a -- are you involved with a nonprofit organization called Treasurers for the Kingdom Foundation?

Α. Yes.

Q. Is that the full name of that organization?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it your contention here that that is a nonprofit organization?

A. Correct.

And is it true you've represented to potential contributors of that organization that you -- that organization had received a formal 501(c)(3) classification from the Internal Revenue Service?

A. That is correct.

Q. That representation wasn't true, was it?

A. It's not exactly true. It's a Texas corporate tax

exempt corporation under the laws of Texas, under the State

But you represented that tax exempt or tax -- a 501(c)(3) status had been received from the Internal Revenue Service to potential contributors?

501(c)(3) language is all throughout the documentation that set that corporation up, that my CPA set up. I was not aware that it was not officially a 501(c)(3). I didn't know the difference.

Q. My question is, you represented to potential distributors to that organization that that organization had received formal 501(c)(3) approval from the Internal Revenue Service?

Α. Correct.

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And now you're admitting that representation to those potential contributors was not true, correct?

A. Not legally. Not -- that distinction was not exactly correct.

Q. My question is --

I made a mistake.

-- that representation was not true --

22 That is correct.

-- was it, Mr. Darnell?

That is correct. A.

And one of the people that made contributions to

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that organization was a lady by the name of Judy Sterling; is that correct?

That is correct. Α.

She used to work for you? ο.

Α.

Was she your personal employee? Q.

7 She's an employee of Advantage Conferences. We 8 paid her.

Okay. What did she do for Advantage Conferences?

A. She worked for Givers Magazine, getting our ads for Givers Magazine.

How much money did she -- did she contribute money to this Treasurers for the Kingdom Foundation?

Q. How much did she contribute to the organization?

I think it was approximately \$4,000. Α.

Okay. And has she asked you for her money back?

She's filed a lawsuit. She never did call me or talk to me about anything.

Okay. Have you paid her that money back? Q.

Α.

0. Do you intend to pay her the money back?

A.

Why don't you intend to pay her the money back?

Because she made a donation. There was no harm.

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there was no foul, it was used exactly the way it should be used. The money is tax exempt, and there is not a problem with that.

Well, you just admitted that it wasn't exempt for 0. Internal Revenue Services purposes.

A. No, I did not. I said it was not officially a 501(c)(3). I didn't -- I was not aware of the distinction. It is a Texas -- I can't remember the exact -- how it's termed, a tax exempt corporation under the laws of Texas, I think it was.

Q. But she can't deduct that contribution for tax purposes because it wasn't a formal 501(c)(3) organization, right?

Yes, she can. Α.

Q. Oh, she can?

A. Yes.

So you're telling the Court that she can take that ο. deduction on her tax return, even though it's not a 501(c)(3) organization?

In my knowledge she can, yes. A.

But you're not a tax lawyer?

Α.

You're not an accountant? ο.

No, and it is --

Q. Or a CPA?

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No. The reason I got it was for people to be able

But it wasn't a tax deductible contribution, was it?

to make tax deductible -- tax deductible contributions.

It's a tax deductible contribution, as far as I know.

Okay. Now, you haven't liked the Internet posting that Mrs. Dobrott has put on the Internet about you, have you?

A. I have nothing against her. I don't like a lot of the postings. I think they're mean-spirited, malicious --

Q. You haven't liked those postings?

I'm sorry, what? A.

You haven't liked those postings; is that right? ο.

I've tolerated them for about a year-and-a-half without saying a word, I just ignored them.

So you just -- how did it take you so long? Why did it take you so long to file a lawsuit if they were so bad? They've been going on for a year-and-a-half, right?

Because she's -- I agree that she has the liberty A. to say whatever she wants to say.

Q. Okay. Thank you.

But at some point you cross a line, and she's A. crossed the line at this point.

How is she doing anything differently now than she

did a year-and-a-half ago?

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A. Just adding different things, going to the school, calling speakers, interfering with my business.

But she was doing all those things a year-and-a-half ago, though, right?

A. She did that at the November -- the November conference is when she called my speakers, and three backed

When did you file this lawsuit, Mr. Darnell? ٥.

I filed it about three weeks ago.

Okay. So it's been a long time since this all first started, correct?

Yes. Α.

O. And there's been several other representatives that made complaints to you about -- you said at least six or seven have made demands for a refund; is that correct?

MR. CIAROCHI: Objection, calls for hearsay.

THE COURT: Sustained.

MR. FOSTER: I think he testified earlier that six or seven reps had asked for their money back, Your Honor.

THE COURT: We've already gone over this. It's been asked and answered.

O. (BY MR. FOSTER) So there have been other people besides Ms. Dobrott that have been complaining about you on

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the Internet; isn't that also true?

A. Yeah. See, there's people joined in on that threat, yes.

Okay. And have you filed a petition for a Q. temporary restraining order against each and every one of

A. No. I have not.

Okay. All right. Do you know Mr. Jack Weinzierl? Q.

A.

Is he one of your representatives? 0.

Yes, he is.

And he's a representative of Advantage

Conferences; is that correct?

That is correct. A.

ο. Right?

And he posts entries on this Internet site,

17 right?

> Α. Yes.

> > He posted on the Advantage Conferences website; is that correct?

Α. No.

> He posted on scam.com? Q.

Scam.com.

Okay. And one of the names he used is Soap Box

25 Dad; is that correct?

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A. I think so, yeah.

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Okay. Have you made representations on the Advantage Conference's website that the Treasurers Foundation -- Treasurers for the Kingdom Foundation was an auxillary of the Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church?

Q. And that wasn't true, was it?

A. That is true.

Oh, so is it -- no one has called you from -representing the church, or none of their lawyers have called you telling you to take that off of your website?

A. The pastor asked me to take that down, and I've talked with him specifically. I don't want the church involved in this negative filth that's gone on, and so we --I don't want them implicated at all. But we are associated with them, an auxillary, yes.

Q. Okay. And how are you associated exactly?

A. Just the legal documentation. It's a legal designation.

Q. Okay. So your testimony under oath is neither the lawyer or the pastor has asked you to take that off of the --

I said the pastor and I discussed this together.

ο. Okay. And did the pastor ask you to take it off?

He wanted to make sure that the church was

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protected, and I totally understand and I agree, I totally agree.

Q. Okay. But did he ask you to take that references off your website?

Yes. A.

And did you take it off the website?

Immediately, ves. A.

Okay. Have you spoken to Curtis Harrison, the Q. attorney for the church, about this situation?

No. I have not.

Why do you -- you posted on the Internet that you believe that Ms. Dobrott was stalking you?

A.

Q. What exactly was the basis for that allegation?

A. Just an absurd obsession with me. This is so bizarre, the whole thing has just been totally bizarre. Posting pictures of our conference, Jack Weinzierl's car, Jack Weinzierl's house, I mean, just the whole nine yards. And constantly talking to me as if I'm talking to her, and I'm not. This is the first time I've ever met her. I don't know her, I have no relationship with her whatsoever.

0. But you're not alleging she's ever been close to your house?

A. I have no idea.

Q. Okay. And you're not alleging that she's been

talking to your children face-to-face?

A. She has brought up my children. She's brought up my wife, and that's where it draws the line, would be my father. She said terrible things about my father, who is a simple minister, never been involved in business, hates

Q. But just to be clear, you don't know of any time she's ever been face-to-face with your children or your wife or anybody in your family, correct?

A. No.

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MR. FOSTER: I'll pass the witness, Your Honor.

#### REDIRECT EXAMINATION

### BY MR. CIAROCHI:

Q. Very briefly, Mr. Darnell. Let's talk about the first exhibit they introduced. When you filled out that affidavit, it was because you had been advised by others who were so called legal experts, that American (sic) somehow opted into their tax return, and that certain things had to be stated in an affidavit, otherwise you consented to various forms of taxation; is that true?

Α. Yes.

Is that true? Q.

Α. Yes.

MR. FOSTER: Objection, Your Honor, leading

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and compound.

THE COURT: It is leading, but I'm going to allow it in the interest of time.

THE WITNESS: The answer is yes.

Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. Very briefly, dealing with all the various nonprofits and so on, all money that was received ultimately was given to the end line charities; is that correct?

A. Well, and individuals that we deemed appropriate,

Okay. And the donors were more or less told that? Q.

Yeah, the donors knew where that money went. A.

Okay. And the various web postings that we submitted, they were on both scam.com and also a website that uses your company's name, Advantage Conferences, thetruth.com; is that correct?

A. Advantageconferencestruth.com, yes.

MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. We will pass the witness.

> THE COURT: Are we done with this witness? RECROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. FOSTER:

Q. Mr. Darnell, has Advantage Conferences ever had any sales to anyone of the these conferences that wasn't a representative of the company?

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24 25 Α. Yes.

And how many different persons that were not ο. already representatives of the company have purchased these conferences from Advantage Conferences?

A. One that I know of, but there is mitigation -there's mitigating circumstances with that, and that is, very simply, that if you purchase the enrollment at fifty-nine-ninety-five, you can also now take tax deductions as owning a business, and so most people smartly do that.

O. Okav. But what you're telling me, I believe, is that you've only -- Advantage Conferences, LLC has only sold conferences, educational conferences, to one person who wasn't at some point a representative of Advantage Conferences; is that correct?

A. I'd have to look at the records, but to my knowledge that's correct.

Q. So isn't it fair to say that Advantages Conferences, LLC by and large sells most of its conferences who are buying in as sales representatives; is that correct? MR. CIAROCHI: Objection, relevance.

MR. FOSTER: It's relevant because it shows that Advantage Conferences is offering a pyramid scheme.

THE COURT: Well, it's recross, you're limited to the redirect, and you're going beyond the scope of that, so it's sustained.

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MR. FOSTER: I'll pass the witness, Your

MR. CIAROCHI: No more question, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. You can have a step down.

Thank you.

please.

Honor.

Plaintiff's next witness?

MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, at this point we'd like to call the defendant, Heather Dobrott.

THE COURT: Okay. Ma'am, if you'll come up,

Other than your direct, do you have any more evidence you're going to present?

MR. CIAROCHI: No, Your Honor, it will be that, and we'll close.

HEATHER DOBROTT,

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. CLAROCHI:

Ms. Dobrott, did you receive a copy of the plaintiff's original petition and the affidavit of Tim Darnell?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Okay. Do you have any reason to deny that you were the author of all of the attached Internet postings that were attached as exhibits to Mr. Darnell's affidavit?

My response would be those were cut and paste, and they're taken completely out of context, so it's very hard to even discern where those came from, what I was responding to. That is a long conversation that went on for 82 pages and over 3,000 posts, and there were 128 people involved in the conversation.

Do you deny, though, that you're the author of more than 1800 posts, et cetera, on scam.com?

A. Yes, but I've posted on 12 different companies, at least, and a number of different threads, so there's dozens of threads and well over a dozen companies.

Q. For the purposes of these postings, whenever it says "soapboxemom" with a colon, do you deny that that's the text that you, in fact, typed in?

A. If they haven't been altered. I haven't looked at all the ones carefully submitted. Yes, I am Soap Box Mom, definitely.

Q. Okay. And do you have any reason to believe that the physical text was removed, or text that wasn't on the website was added? I mean, do you have any reason to believe that we've done that in this case today?

A. It's very easy to cut and paste those to put them into Word documents and change them, because I used to omit rep's names from things to protect the privacy, or omit my things that Mr. Darnell said about me, these so I can't be

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certain those are correct, but I think they are basically what is on there, but they are cut and paste. There are little bits and pieces that don't suggest why I responded the way I did, sir.

Q. And other than today, have you ever seen Tim Darnell before?

A. No, sir, I've just seen his picture on his web postings, sir.

Q. Okay. Did you go to his conference?

A. Oh, I went to the hotel and I took a few pictures, yes, they're online, and I'm perfectly happy to admit that, yes, absolutely, sir.

Q. Okay. Did you go to Jack Weinzierl's home?

No, no, he posted pictures on the Internet. We had an estate sale to sell his home. We just picked up the pictures he already had online, and we're -- thought it was cute, that's his home and he's selling the stuff. He had his furniture on there. We were just posting what he already had up, sir. I didn't take any pictures of his home at any time, never. I've never been near his residence.

Have you stated on the Internet that you've humiliated Tim Darnell's family at Allen High School?

No. vou're mischaracterizing that. I said he should be embarrassed that I had to defend myself. He stated numerous times in writing -- which is in there, you

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included the excerpts I made -- that I was stalking him, he was receiving death threats, I was at his home day and night. It went on and on.

Stalking allegations in his opposition pages on his website. His Footsteps of Faith message that goes out to at least 8,000 people was a personal, long diatribe, and attack against me. I went to --

THE REPORTER: You need to slow down.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am, sorry.

I only tried to defend myself against those specific allegations, absolutely.

Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. But you'll certainly agree on Exhibit N. which is page 15 of 42 that I'm quoting, that you at least said. "I spent the afternoon at Allen High School. The school resource officers and some personnel and the principal were all present. They read the papers for your current lawsuit, the Better Business suit you lost, the All-Star bankruptcy files, your threatening e-mails, and the stocking and death threat allegations you've made." And then it says, "It appears the next step may have to be filing suit, unless that was enough public humiliation."

Those were all your words, correct?

MR. FOSTER: Objection, Your Honor, the

witness doesn't have the benefit of having that exhibit in front of her. I would ask that she be allowed to look at

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that while she's asked --

MR. CIAROCHI: I can approach.

MR. FOSTER: It's a long and drawn out

question.

you're on.

MR. CIAROCHI: Okay.

Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) I guess if you could just read out loud here.

A. Certainly.

THE COURT: If you'll identify which exhibit

- Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) It's the same exhibit, which I believe was N, page 15 of 42, because that's the longer one. We didn't want to get into a big debate with --
- A. You know, I wrote that specifically. That was in answer to that. I was at the point, I was going to sue to get those things taken off line.

Our family was very afraid we'd be harmed or have retaliation against us, because he was claiming I was talking him and I was a threat to him.

- Q. And then you said here it's not true. You say, "I would have to say that everyone that received copies of the documentation looked shocked and sickened."
- A. Yes. The Footsteps of Faith messenger. He claimed I was attacking Christianity, I was a demon spewing hideous things. I was satanic and evil in that long

diatribe against myself.

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And I made sure -- I explained to the SRO officers, I want to know, has there been any report from Mr. or Mrs. Darnell that they are being stalked, that the daughters are being stalked? Have any of the teachers or anvone seen me ever in time? I knew no one had ever seen me there. I have never stalked him or threatened him in any

- So then the purpose of your going to the minor daughter's high school was then to confirm that you hadn't been there before? Is that the explanation I'm hearing now?
- A. I wanted to get statements from the teachers, and they said I had to get a subpoena to do that, to make sure I had evidence I could bring into court to say, no, these statements he made about me online are completely false and they're totally ridiculous.

I have never stalked anyone at any time. I went to the principal. I talked to the school resource officers, and I told him, Here's what he's saying? I said, Yes. The Allen police told me the only recourse I had to get that stuff taken down was to file suit. Unless he threatened me directly with a specific threat of harm, according to the police, I had no recourse.

Q. So that's kind of analogous to this situation, that a lawsuit would have to be filed to discuss someone's

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constant discussions and interactions around town? THE COURT: Object, Your Bonor, it calls

for --

no --

THE WITNESS: Well, excuse me, sir, there's

THE COURT: Well, it's argumentative.

(BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. You complained earlier that you said Mr. Darnell had said that you were demonic or something like that.

You don't deny, though, that you've told third parties that Mr. Darnell is Satan, one who thinks like Charlie Manson and so on; is that right?

- A. You're mischaracterizing that, sir. Anytime I've said anything of that nature, it's a direct response to something that he or Mr. Jack Weinzierl wrote about me, sir, you're totally mischaracterizing it. You're taking them out of thin air, sir, and that's not fair.
- Q. Do you know Mr. Darnell to have ever posted information on scam.com?
- No. he posts stuff on his website. He has a blog, and he sends out things to e-mails that get forwarded to me because the reps find them very offensive.
- I mean, really, over the last three years do you think there have been more than ten documents created by my client that reference you?

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No, there don't have to be. The few that have been created are quite damaging enough, especially since they're completely untrue, sir.

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Q. Okay. And just to understand your motivation, you've never attended an Advantage Conferences conference. other than not paying the registration and showing up that one time?

A. Well, of course not, no, sir. I posted a lot of things. Let me explain where I got the information from.

THE COURT: He just asked a simple question. You've answered the question. So if you'll ask your next question.

ο. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) And you've never attempted to actually purchase a conference and attend it that way; is that right?

No, I knew enough about it that I would certainly never consider doing something that's obviously a pyramid scheme and is harmful. No, I would not have purchased a conference, because the income opportunity attached. Never.

Q. Okay. And other than that, have you ever interacted with Mr. Darnell or his family?

No. I'm an Internet poster who took an interest in this because I'm friends with attorneys who like to blog about this.

An attorney from New York requested -- his

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name is Wesley --

THE COURT: You're going on to things that are not responsive to the question.

You need to ask your next question.

- Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Do you deny that you called prospective conference speakers prior to an Advantage Conferences conference and encouraged them to cancel, to not speak at the event, and so on?
- A. I contacted six speakers total. Four had already spoken, two were prospective speakers, and I contacted them at the request of his reps and office people, they sent me e-mails addresses and begged me to talk to these people because they were worried about their reputations and getting involved.
  - O. And --
- I was out to help people. It was public information. In no way was I involved in anybody's business. This was public information I shared with people in the public, and that was the only purpose.
- Q. And the purpose was to get the speakers to not attend the conference or to not affiliate with Advantage Conferences; is that correct?
- A. Well, no, they should have the information they need to make a choice whether they want to be involved, sir.
  - Okay. But I believe if you look at Exhibits P --

excuse me, Exhibit P, that exhibit has your web post that says "Together we can stop this conference"?

A. Yes, by asking.

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MR. FOSTER: She does not have --

THE WITNESS: I know what it says, thank you.

(BY MR. CIAROCHI) Please look at it, Mrs. Dobrott.

This isn't it, but I can answer that. You're not reading the rest of it, sir. I said that people have been harmed. I'd like you to go to the Attorney General's office, here's the contact information. Anyone who wants to has the right to go to the Attorney General's office.

If that conference happens, that means people are being harmed if they've paid. That was a request for people to look into the other options they had for help.

THE COURT: Ma'am, you need to give only answers to the questions that are asked, not to go on --THE WITNESS: Sorry, sir.

THE COURT: So you've had an opportunity to look at the document. Do you have a question about that document?

MR. CIAROCHI: Okay. I'm so sorry, Your Honor, I'm just looking for that specific quote.

Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) But you did say, "Together we can stop this conference," correct?

A. Everyone that was on --

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Q. Exhibit 5. A. Yeah, we discussed the Attorney General's office

information. We gave the link for the complaint hotmail for the Attorney General's office so anyone that needed that and needed help had that information available. People have a right to go and get redress.

THE COURT: Ma'am, you've answered the question. Please don't go beyond the question.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

(BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. And I'll get off this and move on. But I guess the direct quote is, "We can still stop this conference," and that was posted on March 22nd of '07, does that sound about right to you?

A. Yes, sir, that's correct.

Q. Okay. And only recently, only of the last four to six weeks, did you begin having web discussions about speaking to Tim's pastor and going to the daughter's school and all that; is that right?

You know, speaking to Tim's pastor, again, that's out of context. Paul Ernst, from the church, called me when they found out there was a suit against --

THE COURT: Ma'am, please answer the question that's been asked.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I didn't contact the church. A lot of time they contacted me is the answer.

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That's mischaracterized again. Church members and the people that were trying to help the church, attorneys contacted me.

Q. (BY MR. CIAROCHI) But when did you first start discussing that on the Internet?

A. I don't remember exactly, but since the charity suit was out of there, and I was aware of it, we were discussing the charity fraud suit and what made up the --

THE COURT: Again, the question was just limited -- you said you didn't remember. Please, just limit your answer to the question being asked.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Next question.

- (BY MR. CIAROCHI) Okay. You also owned the website known as advantageconferencestruth.com?
  - Α. Yes.
  - ο. Okay. And when did you purchase that?
- I really honestly don't remember. I'd have to A. look and see, I just don't remember.
- Do you have any means on that website determining who reads that website and how many hits you have?
- A. I don't know if I can. I tried to sign up for Alexa Tools (phonetic), so at this point, no, I have no idea who reads it and why they read it.
  - Q. Okay. And the same for your Internet postings on

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scam.com. Do you have any means of determining the names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails, and so on of the individuals who are reading your message?

- No, I don't, unless they have personally mailed me and we've exchanged information voluntarily, which has happened numerous times.
- Q. Okay. So it's fair to say both for the Advantage Conferences Truth website and for your postings on scam.com, that these communications were made by you without you knowing who might receive these?
- Well, sure, it's public information. Absolutely anyone who gets on the Internet, I think, is a fair characterization.
- In this lawsuit, given that Mr. Darnell is complaining about these individuals receiving your message, what is your answer to the Court's question of how should plaintiffs be able to determine who received this message and how badly they were harmed?
- A. They could only be harmed if there was something dishonest in it, so that they don't have any right to stop public information being posted, I don't believe, sir.
- Q. Okay. And you agree that Advantage Conferences is the name that's owned by Tim Darnell, right?
  - Yes, sir, yes.
  - Okay. And can you identify all the individuals

that were on the post thread in terms of just knowing which humans they were that's discussed under the subject line of "When I find Jack Weinzierl I will kill him myself," do you know all those individuals involved in that discussion?

A. I know some, and I can tell you I didn't start that, and the minute it appeared I called the Denton County Sheriff's Department. I also have the number for the Denton County Sheriff's department in there, and the post from the moderator.

I immediately e-mailed Jack Weinzierl. I wasn't about to call him at that point, you know. I let him know he had a threat online. I responded to that thread seven months later when Mr. Winezierl, his business associate, attacked a 70-year-old man who's a preacher.

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THE COURT: Again, we're getting beyond the scope of the question that's been asked.

- (BY MR. CIAROCHI) So you've agreed that you've 0. responded to web postings with the subject line of, "When I find Jack Weinzierl I will kill him myself"?
- A. Well, yes, after I reported it to the authorities and asked the moderators to remove it, ves. sir.
- Q. Okay. And this was before you then started going to Mr. Darnell's daughter's school?
  - A. I went there one time and I talked to the SRO

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officers and the principals, period, one time. I never have to go there again, that's resolved. They have no idea that there's any stalking.

MR. CIAROCHI: Your Honor, we'll pass the witness.

THE COURT: Before you do that, other than this witness, though, you have no --

THE COURT: Prior restraints on speech are presumptively unconstitutional, and I have not heard anything that would -- in support of the application to indicate why the relief requested would take it out of that presumption.

MR. CIAROCHI: That's right, Your Honor.

Therefore, the Court is going to deny the temporary injunction, dissolve the temporary restraining order, and order that the bond posted be turned over to the defendant.

> All right. Thank you all. MR. CIAROCHI: Thank you. MR. FOSTER: Thank you, Your Honor. (Proceedings adjourned)

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