# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

WILHELMUS JOHANNES FRANS		)	
MEINERS		)	
200 Whiteplains Court		)	
Gilbert, SC 29054		)	
		)	
ALICE MEINERS		)	
200 Whiteplains Court		)	
Gilbert, SC 29054		)	
		)	
Plaintiffs		)	
		)	
V.		)	Case No
		)	
SINTHYIA DARKNESS		)	
2507 NE 182nd Street	)	,	
North Miami Beach, FL 33160	,	)	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		)	
THOMAS MEYERS		)	
2507 NE 182nd Street	)	,	
North Miami Beach, FL 33160	,	)	
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PHILLIP DOLAN		j j	
1480 Glenwood Dr.		j j	
Brookings, OR 97415-8166		j j	
21001111190, 0110, 1110 0100		)	
Defendants		)	
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		/	

## PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT WITH DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, Wilhelmus Johannes Frans Meiners and Alice Marie Rush Meiners, sue Defendants Sinthyia Darkness, Thomas Meyers and Phillip Dolan, stating as follows:

Plaintiff Wilhelmus Johannes Frans Meiners ("Willem Meiners" or "Mr.
 Meiners") is domiciled in and a citizen of Lexington County in the State of South Carolina. Mr.
 Meiners regularly does business in the State of Maryland and is an officer of a publishing

company named Publish America, LLLP ("PA"). PublishAmerica's principal office and operations are located in Maryland. Mr. Meiners is also involved with a Maryland non stock partnership called Helicopter Explorers for Life Partnership ("HELP"), which was registered as a private foundation with the Internal Revenue Service. In 2009 it changed its name to Advanced Helicopter Youth Foundation, Inc. ("AHYF") and was registered as a public charity.

- 2. Plaintiff Alice Meiners ("Ms. Meiners") is domiciled in and a citizen of Lexington County in the state of South Carolina. She is also involved with HELP. Mr. and Ms. Meiners shall be collectively referred to herein as "Plaintiffs" from time to time.
- 3. Defendant Sinthyia Darkness ("Ms. Darkness") is domiciled in and a citizen of the State of Florida, residing and working in Miami-Dade County.
- 4. Defendant Thomas Meyers ("Mr. Meyers") is domiciled in and a citizen of the State of Florida, residing and working in Miami-Dade County.
- 5. Defendant Phillip Dolan ("Mr. Dolan") is domiciled in and a citizen of the State of Oregon, residing and working in Curry County. Ms. Darkness, Mr. Dolan and Mr. Meyers shall be collectively referred to herein as "Defendants" from time to time.
- 6. The Court has jurisdiction over this civil action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 based upon the fact that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and there is a diversity of citizenship between the parties to this matter. The Court has venue over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 based upon the fact that a substantial portion of the events alleged herein occurred in this District.
  - 7. **JURY DEMAND**: Plaintiffs demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.
  - 8. Ms. Darkness purports to be an investigative journalist. According to her, she

started investigating PA in or about 2005. As part of this investigation, she claims that she assigned the publishing rights for a literary work authored by her to PA. The publishing contract was governed by Maryland law and required the parties to litigate any disputes between the parties in Maryland. Ms. Darkness contacted PA numerous times, including by e-mail and regular mail, during the negotiation and performance of her contract with PA. Ms. Darkness also negotiated several other contracts with PA under her name as well as under one or more aliases. Mr. Meyers participated in Ms. Darkness's investigation, e.g. by assigning the literary rights for his book to PA. His contract was also governed by Maryland law and required him to litigate claims in Maryland.

- 9. PA published a book authored by Mr. Dolan. During the publication of this book, a dispute arose between PA and Mr. Dolan. Mr. Dolan sought to resolve that dispute through arbitration in Maryland as required by the contract. At the evidentiary hearing, Mr. Meiners testified on behalf of PA. Since then, Mr. Dolan has harbored a great deal of animosity towards PA. He has acted on those feelings by publicly disparaging PA, as well as Mr. Meiners, on the Internet. Mr. Dolan posted dozens of contemptuous, sarcastic, nasty, malicious, and defamatory comments about PA and Plaintiffs over the years. He substantially curtailed his public vitriol after PA sent him a cease and desist letter in August 2009, although he has increased his direct attacks more recently.
- 10. Even when he reduced the frequency of his direct attacks, Mr. Dolan indirectly continued his disparagement of PA through a conspiracy with Ms. Darkness and Mr. Meyers. Ms. Darkness and Mr. Meyers periodically posted defamatory attacks about PA on Ms. Darkness' website at http://sinthyiadarkness.blogspot.com in an ongoing series called the

"PublishAmerica Investigative Report". In some of these posts, they made disparaging statements about Willem Meiners, his wife, Alice Meiners, and "HELP". Mr. Dolan aided, abetted and encouraged these defamatory statements as part of the conspiracy.

11. For example, On November 9, 2010, Defendants published the following statement about Mr. Meiners on Ms. Darkness' blog:

Since the publication of my investigative report, our investigative team has been busy researching information for upcoming articles about PublishAmerica and those who run the company. As I reported, PublishAmerica has sent out sales solicitations to their authors attempting to entice them to make book purchases under the guise of charitable donations. We had contacted several of the alleged recipients and learned that they had never even heard of PublishAmerica.

PublishAmerica's founder Willem Meiners has had a lot of experience with charitable endeavors beyond the buy so many copies of your book and you will qualify to have your book donated to Wal-Mart, Barnes and Noble, Oprah Winfrey and the whole myriad of just plain goofy sales solicitations.

As some of you already know, Willem Meiners has a passion for helicopters. Meiners took that passion and in the Golden Years of Publish America, Inc. and Publish America, LLLP Co-founder Willem Meiners bought a helicopter. He bought a used Robinson R44 for around \$300,000 and took flight lessons. Meiners failed to get his pilot's license and was therefore required to hire a pilot when he used the craft.

The R44 was kept at a flight school known as Advanced Helicopter Concepts located at the Frederick Maryland airport. They had authority to lease the craft when Meiners wasn't using it. Meiners created a Delaware corporation, Sig/Palm Aviation, to act as trustee of the helicopter. His wife, at the time, was Sigurveig Palmadottir and she was the named president of Sig/Palm. This was done for reasons unknown, but it worked to mask the real owner of the helicopter.

In 2006 with attorney Raymond Specials, Meiners applied for and received a private foundation determination letter from the IRS

which was named Helicopter Explorers for Life Partnerships, Inc. (HELP). Raymond Specials is considered, at least by himself, as THE expert in aviation related tax exempt organizations. Meiners entered himself as a Trustee alone [sic] with Raymond Specials and Meiners' wife Sigurveig Palmadottir. It should be noted that the records for HELP were kept by Alice King aka Alice Marie Rush King aka Alice Marie Rush aka Alice Meiners. They served without pay and it is good to keep in mind that Meiners is prevented by law from benefitting from donations to the organization.

"A private foundation, sometimes called a non-operating foundation, receives most of its income from investments and endowments. This income is used to make grants to other organizations, rather than being dispersed directly for charitable activities. Private foundations are defined in the Internal Revenue Code under section 509(a) as 501(c)(3) organizations, which do not qualify as public charities."

Unlike public foundations a donor must be careful that his donation is in fact tax deductible. Many donations to a private organization are not tax deductible.

HELP was funded in 2006 with \$205,797. It is unclear where \$5,797 came from but \$200,000 came from Sigpalm Aviation and America House LLC. Sigpalm Aviation is in fact owned by Meiners and was set-up in Delaware for no reason other than to be Trustee of Meiners' helicopter. The corporation did not make any money. How it was able to donate \$100,000 to HELP remains a mystery. If there was \$100,000 in an account of Sigpalm then because he was the owner Meiners donated his own money to HELP, which he cannot legally do.

America House LLC was formed in the 1990s as a publisher. It stopped doing business when Meiners and Larry Clopper formed Publish America. By 2006 America House, LLC was not operating in any manner and was listed by the State of Maryland as not in good standing. The address of America House was Meiners' home and the question is since America House did no business then how did it get \$100,000. Regardless of where the money came from the owner, Meiners, donated the \$100,000 to HELP. Once again Meiners seems to have donated money to his own tax exempt organization.

So HELP was created with \$205,797 in hand. That \$5,797 was

distributed as marketing and promotional fees and was designated as a "Charitable Purpose." Help ended tax year 2006 with \$200,00 and summarized their direct charitable activities as: Visiting prisons -- a) enlist support by prisoners to prepare well wishing cards for sick children; and b) engage in group discussions regarding organization's message of hope, opportunity and gratitude. And: Visit Children's Hospitals -- a) Deliver cards prepared by prison inmates; present helicopter and concept of flight to children; and c) lift spirits, improve comfort and potentially aid in children's recovery through discussion of helicopter exploits.

Not a single penny was spent on the stated charitable activities except the fees of \$5,797 and please note that HELP by law was not permitted to disperse funds directly to charitable activities. The unanswered question is if someone took a tax deduction for the \$205,797 donation who was it?

TO BE CONTINUED THROUGH 2007, 2008 AND 2009. In our upcoming segments, we will discuss the metamorphism of Helicopters Explorers For Life Partnerships into Advanced Helicopter Youth Foundation, a public foundation.

This statement was read by visitors to Ms. Darkness' blog, which is located on the Internet at: http://sinthyiadarkness.blogspot.com/2010/11/publishamerica-invesigation-willem.html.

- 12. The persons who read Defendants' post understood its defamatory meaning and that the defamatory matter was of and concerning Mr. Meiners.
- 13. Defendants published this post with the intent to expose Mr. Meiners to public scorn, hatred, contempt, and ridicule from third parties. For example, they claimed that (a) Mr. Meiners "failed" to get his pilot's license, which conveyed that Mr. Meiners tried to get his license but was unsuccessful, and (b) his company, America House, had gone out of business. Compounding this disparagement, Defendants went so far as to impute criminal conduct to Mr. Meiners, accusing him of violating tax law, <u>e.g.</u> donating money to HELP when he was legally prohibited from doing so and using HELP's funds for prohibited purposes. Defendants

reinforced the implication that Mr. Meiners had committed wrongdoing by accusing him of surreptitious and underhanded activity, <u>e.g.</u> "mask[ing] the real owner of the helicopter" and doing business with a company (America House) that was not in good standing.

- 14. Defendants' statements were false. Mr. Meiners never tried to get his pilot's license, never violated tax law and never directed HELP to use funds for improper purposes. Nor did he do anything to mask the real owner of any helicopter. Furthermore, America House was always in good standing with the State of Maryland and never ceased doing business.
- 15. On December 3, 2010, Defendants published the following statement about Ms. Meiners on Darkness' blog:

The Kiwanis club held a charity raffle. The winners received a prize of a helicopter ride. . . guess who shows up as the pilot? It's Alice Meiners in a chopper owned by Willem Meiners. When the winners return they speak of going up into the clouds, much too high for Alice to have been flying. Here's the clincher, during the time of this ride, her license did not permit her to have passengers.

\* \* \*

She did not have any rating that would permit her to do anything other than fly solo, visual flight rules only and she could not carry any passengers. This is the second documented incident of Ms. Meiners taking passengers that we were able to find.

We have a short film that documents the incident with the Kiwanis raffle winners. This is one of the goofiest take-offs ever and the two passengers, mother and son, are really lucky to have made it back alive. They are oblivious to the potential danger. I am not a pilot. However, military pilots have reviewed this video and have confirmed that Alice did not have control of this helicopter.

What's more, Alice and Willem live in Whiteplains, which is a community built on a runway. despite [sic] this, they do not currently own an aircraft and have not since July 24, 2009. Meiners obtained her license on September 16, 2008 and the helicopter

crashed ten months later.

This statement was posted on Ms. Darkness' blog at:

http://sinthyiadarkness.blogspot.com/2010/12/publishamerica-up-up-and-away.html.

- public scorn, hatred, contempt, and ridicule from third parties. Specifically, they sought to denigrate Ms. Meiners' qualifications as a pilot. Among other things, Defendants accused Ms. Meiners of (1) flying too high, i.e. into the clouds; (2) violating the limitations on her license, i.e. by carrying passengers; and (3) losing control over the helicopter at takeoff, and thereby putting passengers at risk. These statements were intended to create the impression that she jeopardized the lives of her passengers by acting unsafely. Defendants reinforced this impression by juxtaposing their comments about Ms. Meiners' allegedly improper conduct at the Kiwanis event with the subsequent crash of a helicopter, implying that Ms. Meiners was somehow responsible for that crash, and further creating the impression that she was an unsafe pilot. This was defamatory per se in that it accuses Ms. Meiners of criminal conduct, i.e. knowingly and recklessly exposing third persons to risk of death. It also created the impression that she was unprofessional, which discouraged people from associating with her on a professional basis.
- 17. Defendants' statements were read by third parties, including members of the Absolute Write forum on December 4 and 6, 2010. The persons to whom the matter was communicated understood Defendants' words to have a defamatory meaning and that the defamatory matter was of and concerning Ms. Meiners.
- 18. Defendant's accusations are false. Ms. Meiners has an exemplary record as a helicopter pilot. She has no citations on her record. She has been involved in no accidents or

other mishaps. Furthermore, she was not even the pilot during the Kiwanis event. Moreover, the person piloting the aircraft in the video referenced by Defendants was in complete control thereof. To suggest that Ms. Meiners put people's lives at risk or acted unprofessionally during that event is patently false.

- 19. On December 3, 2010, Plaintiffs sent a cease and desist letter to Ms. Darkness, demanding that she stop her tortious conduct.
- 20. Defendants did not cease their wrongful conduct in response to the cease and desist letter. Instead, on December 6, 2010, Defendants rushed to publish another defamatory statement about Plaintiffs on Ms. Darkness' blog:

#### Tax Woes For Willem Meiners and HELP

In the tax year 2007, Alice King whose address was the same as Willem's was named Executive Director of HELP (Helicopters For Life Partnerships) and paid \$11,612 for 884 hours or 17 hours per week. Willem claims to have worked 780 hours or 15 hours per week and did not pay himself. It is impossible that Alice could have put that much time into HELP in 2007.

HELP applied for and received in 2006, authorization to operate under Section 4947(a) Nonexempt Charitable Trust treated as a Private Trust. The IRS states:

"A private foundation, sometimes called a non-operating foundation, receives most of its income from investments and endowments. This income is used to make grants to other organizations, rather than being dispersed directly for charitable activities. Private foundations are defined in the Internal Revenue Code under section 509(a) as 501(c)(3) organizations, which do not qualify as public charities.

Before donating to a 501(c)(3) organization, a donor may wish to review IRS Publication 78, which lists organizations currently exempt under 501(c)(3).[11]"

Therefore, it is extremely doubtful that donations to HELP were

tax deductible. I would say they weren't at all but there are exceptions made by the IRS. In 2007 if you made a donation to HELP you would be better served if you called the IRS before deducting your donation from your tax return. In 2009 the IRS terminated HELP's [sic], whose name had now been changed to Advanced helicopter Youth Foundation, private foundation status and made them a public charity. So you can make a donation to AHYF, since 2009, and deduct it from your tax return.

The IRS required tax return for HELP for 2007, on the first page, has Line 24 for Total Operating and Administrative expenses. HELP claimed \$272,282. Line 25 is very important to the IRS because it lists Contributions, gifts, grants paid. That is the line the IRS looks at first. HELP entered 0. That is a big red flag. To be legit some of HELP's money HAD to be a grant, gift or contribution.

Then 990-PF form provides page 11 to list each grant, gift or contribution. HELP entered "N/A" confirming they made no contributions, gifts or grants to anyone. It is the same for tax years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Then if anyone took the \$291,000 donated to HELP as a tax deduction they are looking at repayment of the tax deduction, a penalty and interest. If they were in the 33% tax bracket they would have saved themselves \$96,000. That would have to be paid back to the IRS plus interest and penalties imposed.

This statement was read by visitors to Ms. Darkness' blog, which is located on the Internet at: http://sinthyiadarkness.blogspot.com/2010/12/tax-woes-for-willem-meiners-and-help.html. The persons who read Defendants' post understood its defamatory meaning and that the defamatory matter was of and concerning Mr. and Ms. Meiners.

21. This statement was also intended to expose plaintiffs to public scorn, hatred, contempt, and ridicule from third parties. In fact, it was defamatory <u>per se</u> because it imputed tax fraud to Plaintiffs. For example, it suggests that Mr. Meiners underpaid his federal taxes on \$291,000 of income. It reinforces this impression by claiming that Mr. Meiners was experiencing

"tax woes", and that his tax forms contained "red flag[s]" and did not appear to be "legit".

Defendants also suggested that Plaintiffs misrepresented the number of hours that Ms. Meiners worked for HELP, claiming that it was impossible for her to have worked 15 hours per week in 2007. Defendants also implied that Mr. and Ms. Meiners took action that made donations to HELP non-deductible. This creates the appearance that Mr. and Ms. Meiners have acted unprofessionally and thus deters charitable entities and donors from associating with them.

These statements were false.

22. Defendants' imputation of criminal conduct was further compounded by the comments about PA they had previously posted on August 19, 2010 on Darkness' blog.

In a public Corporation Disclosure Statement PA stated: "Publish America, LLLP has no parent corporation. Its partners include America House Publishing Company, LLC. Book Publishing LLLP and Publish America, Inc. Its general partner is Publish America, Inc."

In 2006 America House Publishing Company, LLC donated \$100,000 to Helicopter Explorers for Life Partnerships, Inc. {Help} a nonprofit organization. This money helped finance the HELLOCOPTER trip around North and South America. One of Meiners' companies donated \$100,000 to Meiners nonprofit corganization whose work has been only to the benefit of Meiners or so the documents indicate.

Where would America House Publishing Company, LLC get \$100,000 when they do not carry on any business? Since Meienrs could not legally donate money to himself it could not have come directly from him. Someone had to give or pay America House Company LLC. The only logical conclusion that can be drawn from this is that the \$100,000 came from PA.

Last year the IRS did audit HELP and thereafter it ceased to function. During such examination, the IRS would have followed the donations back to the source. And it would be of great interest to the IRS as to how the donors handled the money on their own

tax returns.

Late in 2009, after things seemed to start to disintegrate at PublishAmerica, Meiners merged America House Publishing Company, LLC into America House Publish Company Inc. Considering this, it would come as no surprise to learn PA has found themselves in a tax trouble. Meiners [sic] abrupt departure from the company could indicate that he became the sacrificial lamb because he created the whole mess or that he bailed while he still could.

Contrary to public opinion the IRS does not want to send tax cheats to prison, their goal is to get them to pay the taxes owed plus interest and penalties. Usually, when people are sentenced to prison for tax issues, its usually because they are involved in other crimes that the government cannot prove.

This statement was read by visitors to Ms. Darkness' blog, which is located on the Internet at: http://sinthyiadarkness.blogspot.com/2010/08/publishamerica-undercover-investigative.html.

The persons who read Defendants' post understood its defamatory meaning and that the defamatory matter was of and concerning Mr. Meiners.

23. This post was intended to expose Mr. Meiners to public scorn, hatred, contempt, and ridicule from third parties by creating the impression that Mr. Meiners had perpetrated tax fraud; the post creates this impression when all of the statements are viewed in context. First, the post accuses HELP of running into tax troubles by stating that it was shut down after it was audited by the IRS. Defendants attributed this tax trouble to Mr. Meiners since the post also states that HELP was his nonprofit organization. Second, the post explicitly accuses PA of running into "tax trouble". Defendants also attributed PA's tax trouble to Mr. Meiners by claiming that (a) Mr. Meiners' "abrupt[ly] depart[ed]" PA, and (b) made changes to the corporate structure of one of PA's partners, America House Book Publishing Co., LLC, immediately after

PA allegedly ran into these tax troubles. Defendants then opined that Plaintiffs were guilty of criminal conduct even though they had not been prosecuted: "Contrary to public opinion the IRS does not want to send tax cheats to prison, their goal is to get them to pay the taxes owed plus interest and penalties".

- 24. Defendants' claims that Mr. and Ms. Meiners were "tax cheats" is patently false and is built on lie after lie. First, America House Publishing Co. never stopped doing business; Nor did its merger into a corporation have anything to do with tax trouble. Second the IRS never audited HELP, which has never ceased to function. Third, PA never had tax troubles or any financial connection to HELP; and Mr. Meiners is still affiliated with that company.
- 25. Defendants renewed their defamatory attacks on July 10, 2011, posting the following comments about Plaintiffs on Darkness' blog:

PublishAmerica.. I haven't written on them in a while. There was nothing new to report. However, my source has told me that Meiners and wife Alice were reported to the IRS for possible tax fraud involving HELP, his "non profit" organization, in 2008. These details were revealed in our investigative report. So if you haven't read it, please do so.

The IRS audit was completed on Nov. 31, 2010 and as a result, the IRS determined that they owe the IRS \$51,769.40! This would be his personal tax deduction for the money he donated to HELP. Meiners did not pay back the IRS and this has prompted the government to throw a lien against all of his properties and all of his rights to said properties.

Their house in Gilbert is deeply in mortgage debt. Unfortunately for Meiners the residence has no more equity to speak of. They also still own a house in Frederick Maryland that does have at least, \$100,000 in equity.

These numbers on the amount of back taxes that Meiners owes is only for a single year. There may or may not be additional taxes owed.

We will keep you posted!

This statement was read by visitors to Ms. Darkness' blog, which is located on the Internet at: http://sinthyiadarkness.blogspot.com/2011/07/more-tax-woes-for-willem-meiners-of.html. The persons who read Defendants' post understood its defamatory meaning and that the defamatory matter was of and concerning Mr. Meiners.

- 26. This post was intended to expose Plaintiffs to public scorn, hatred, contempt, and ridicule from third parties by creating the impression that Plaintiffs had been penalized over \$50,000 by the IRS for "tax fraud". Specifically, Defendants attempt to tie a tax lien placed on Plaintiffs' property in 2010 to tax fraud allegedly perpetrated by Plaintiffs in 2006 and 2007 when operating the charitable organization HELP.
- 27. Defendants' claims that Plaintiffs committed tax fraud was false. The tax lien placed on their property pertained solely to their personal tax obligations. Specifically, it was intended to secure an installment plan negotiated by Plaintiffs with the IRS to pay their tax obligations for 2009. The plan had nothing to do with funds donated to HELP in 2006 and 2007 and does not imply in any way that Plaintiffs committed fraud or that the IRS penalized Plaintiff for deductions taken by Plaintiffs for donations made to HELP during that period.
- 28. Defendants made their defamatory statements with actual malice, <u>i.e.</u> with knowledge of their falsity or with reckless disregard thereof, and with the intent to injure, disgrace and defame Plaintiffs. In fact, Mr. Meyers, Ms. Darkness, and Mr. Dolan all hold grudges against PA and intentionally lied about Plaintiffs to seek retribution. In the alternative, Defendants made these defamatory statements without using due care to identify their falsity.

29. As a direct and proximate result of the publication of the untrue and defamatory per se statements by Defendants, Plaintiffs have been exposed to public hatred, contempt, and ridicule. Such defamatory and untrue statements have been a source of great embarrassment and humiliation to plaintiffs. In particular Plaintiffs' character and reputation in their profession and the community at large has been impaired. These statements have also impaired Plaintiffs' relationships with charitable organizations, e.g. AHYF, and deters people from associating with them personally and professionally.

# COUNT I

- 30. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1 to 29 as if set forth herein.
- 31. The statement set forth in paragraph 11 is actionable as a separate claim for defamation by Mr. Meiners.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Willem Meiners demands judgment for Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in compensatory damages, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in punitive damages, interest, costs, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as justice requires.

#### **COUNT II**

- 32. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1 to 29 as if set forth herein.
- 33. The statement set forth in paragraph 15 is actionable as a separate claim for defamation by Ms. Meiners.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Alice Meiners demands judgment for Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in compensatory damages, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in punitive damages, interest, costs, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as justice requires.

#### **COUNT III**

- 34. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1 to 29 as if set forth herein.
- 35. The statement set forth in paragraph 20 is actionable as a separate claim for defamation by Plaintiffs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment for Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in compensatory damages, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in punitive damages, interest, costs, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as justice requires.

## **COUNT IV**

- 36. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1 to 29 as if set forth herein.
- 37. The statement set forth in paragraph 22 is actionable as a separate claim for defamation by Plaintiff Willem Meiners.

WHEREFORE, Mr. Meiners demands judgment for Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in compensatory damages, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in punitive damages, interest, costs, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as justice requires.

#### **COUNT V**

- 38. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1 to 29 as if set forth herein.
- 39. The statement set forth in paragraph 25 is actionable as a separate claim for defamation by Plaintiffs Willem and Alice Meiners.

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demands judgment for Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in compensatory damages, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in punitive damages, interest, costs, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as justice requires.

Respectfully Submitted,

# Victor Cretella

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Victor E. Cretella III 230 E. Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21701 301-228-2705 vec@publishamerica.com Bar No. 13459 Counsel for Willem and Alice Meiners

## **JURY DEMAND**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 38, Plaintiffs in the above captioned matter demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable in this matter and respectfully requests that this matter be placed on the jury docket.

Victor Cretella

Victor Cretella