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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
STARK COUNTY, OHIO

DOUGLAS J. HAGMANN, et al.,

Plaintiffs

v.

DANIEL JOHN LEE, et al.

Defendants

Case No. 2020CV00494

JUDGE HARTNETT

JUDGMENT ENTRY

This matter came before the Court for hearing on the issue of monetary damages sought by Plaintiffs against Defendant Daniel John Lee. The Court hereby finds that by Judgment Entry dated December 2, 2020, the Court granted default judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and against Defendant on the issue of liability on the claims of defamation and false light. As well, the Court granted injunctive relief, forbidding future defamatory publications about Plaintiffs by Defendant Lee. The Court scheduled a damages hearing for January 12, 2021.

At the damages hearing, Plaintiffs, Douglas J. Hagmann, Stephen Quayle, Craig Sawyer, and Russ Dizdar, appeared and were represented by counsel to provide evidentiary support of the Plaintiffs' damages. Defendant failed to appear. The Court makes the following findings of fact:

The Plaintiffs presented a video compilation of various statements that Defendant Lee published online about them.¹ Some of the Defendant's more egregious statements are as follows:

¹ Plaintiffs' Exhibit 1.

- Craig Sawyer is a very evil dude.
- Craig Sawyer betrayed Veterans on Patrol by covering up a Satanic pedophile camp; he is a Benedict Arnold who needs to be prosecuted for his crimes against humanity.
- Craig Sawyer is a “traitor.”
- Craig Sawyer loves to protect Satanic pedophiles.
- Craig Sawyer was hired to murder Isaac Kappy.
- Russ Dizdar is a fake, is a phony, and is wicked; he is evil.
- Russ Dizdar is a Satanic pedophile. He works with Craig Sawyer, who is a protector of Satanic pedophiles.
- Russ Dizdar uses his “fake ministry” to actually traffic children, and he is a Satanic pedophile himself.
- Doug Hagmann is a Jesuit Satanic pedophile. He is evil.
- Doug Hagmann and Steve Quale are cheating people out of money; these guys are evil.

A. Findings of Fact Specific to Douglas J. Hagmann

In January, 2019, Douglas Hagmann became aware that Defendant was beginning to make defamatory comments about Hagmann online, primarily on You Tube, but on other online platforms as well. There were hundreds of thousands of individual views on the Defendant’s videos.

Defendant repeatedly called Hagmann a Satanic pedophile on his broadcasts. Moreover, the defamatory statements occurred repeatedly over months, during the time that Hagmann’s family suffered the incredible loss of his son, who passed away in June, 2019 under suspicious circumstances. One of the Defendant’s videos goes so far as to insinuate that Hagmann was somehow involved in his own son’s death.

Hagmann was severely damaged personally and professionally by Defendant Lee. Hagmann and his wife have received death threats that people will come to their house and string them up, referring to them as pedophiles. Hagmann is the host of a radio talk show and his profession depends on his integrity and character. Hagmann proved that he lost numerous subscribers to his radio show due to Defendant’s defamatory statements.

B. Findings of Fact Specific to Russ Dizdar

Russ Dizdar has a background in law enforcement and as a pastor. He currently works in counseling victims of human trafficking and Satanic ritual abuse. The statements published by Defendant Lee, accusing Dizdar of being a Satanic pedophile, wicked, and a child sex trafficker himself, have caused massive confusion to the victims that he seeks to help. It caused some victims to lose trust in Dizdar and his organization. The victims question who they can go to who will listen to them, believe, them, and truly investigate their trafficking situations. Dizdar presented compelling testimony as to how crucial the victims' trust is in the healing process. Similar to Haggmann, Dizdar has received multiple death threats relating to the defamatory statements made by Defendant Lee.

C. Findings of Fact Specific to Stephen Quayle

Stephen Quayle is in the business of selling precious metals and is a talk radio show host. The subject matter of his show is usually from a Christian viewpoint, and one that values human life and tries to make a difference, especially regarding veterans and single parents. Quayle allows Haggmann and Dizdar, and Craig Sawyer to use his talk radio show platform because he believes in their mission. All of Quayle's income is derived from the internet via these two businesses.

Potential customers have approached Quayle about Defendant Lee calling him a pedophile and thus causing doubt about conducting business with him. Quayle testified that the Plaintiffs have had no choice but to suffer the damage of Defendant's defamation silently because they have seen the momentum that Defendant Lee instills in his followers. When Defendant Lee posts his defamatory broadcasts, the followers comment

in similar fashion and recirculate the content on their own platforms. Quayle said that any attempt to defend himself would result in more ammunition for Defendant Lee and more recycling of Defendant's defamatory messaging. Thus, the Plaintiffs collectively determined that filing this lawsuit was their only option to stop the damages. Quayle personally believes that answering publicly will just inflame Defendant Lee further.

Defendant Lee calls Quayle a Satanic ritual abuser and a pedophile. Quayle has received death threats resulting specifically from Defendant Lee's conduct. He testified that Defendant Lee's followers on the dark web are soliciting people to do harm to the four plaintiffs.

The comments by Defendant Lee have prompted additional threats to Quayle's family. Quayle testified that these threats have been "overwhelming" and have involved threats to do "obscene" things to his wife. Quayle has had to take security precautions to protect his family and property. Additionally, Quayle has catastrophic high blood pressure due to these threats. He testified this lawsuit was necessary for his own psychological wellness.

D. Findings of Fact Specific to Craig Sawyer

Sawyer has an admirable career in public service and the military. He is a former Navy Seal and worked in anti-terrorist actions. After his significant military and governmental service, Sawyer found a passion to fight against human trafficking. He founded Veterans for Child Rescue in May, 2017, which is a nationally registered non-profit group whose mission is to expose human traffickers so that law enforcement can more readily prosecute these abusers. Sawyer's law enforcement background enables him to work with law enforcement at multiple junctures during this investigative process.

Sawyer found out about Defendant Lee's comments through his own followers on social media. Sawyer did not find Defendant to be credible, but thousands upon thousands of people commented to Sawyer regarding Defendant Lee's broadcasts, expressing horror and disbelief that Sawyer is a "Satanic pedophile." Sawyer testified that the collective damage done by Defendant Lee and his followers who are blatantly encouraged by Defendant Lee is "extensive." Sawyer testified that Defendant Lee's videos each get over 100,000 views and the trolling of his followers circulates to reach millions of people. Sawyer's own church pastor has told him that he was "taking a beating" and horrible things are being said about him.

Sawyer testified that Defendant Lee's defamatory statements have caused him and Veterans for Child Rescue to lose support. Former donors have told Sawyer that they stopped supporting him and the non-profit because they did not know what a horrible person Sawyer was and can no longer support his mission. Sawyer's non-profit has a platinum level rating. Corporations and other groups looking to donate to non-profits have reviewed Veterans for Child Rescue and have chosen not to support it due to what Defendant Lee has published about Sawyer on the internet. This has led to decreased funding for the non-profit, which is thereby not able to run as many missions to serve children. Ultimately, fewer children are being helped due to Defendant Lee's defamatory statements.

The Court finds that after giving consideration to the Plaintiffs' testimony, the exhibits presented, and arguments of counsel, the Plaintiffs have established, by a preponderance of the evidence, relating to the actual damages at issue, that they are entitled to compensatory damages in the amount of \$3,500,000, statutory interest thereon,

and court costs. The value of the intangible aspects of the damages supported by testimony is extraordinary. The reputations of all Plaintiffs have been tarnished, the Plaintiffs have all received death threats, and have been labeled as Satanic pedophiles, among other things. The Court is particularly concerned regarding the loss of confidence in the non-profit work conducted by Plaintiffs Hagmann and Sawyer on behalf of both human trafficking victims and the donors that support the non-profit agencies. This loss of confidence has a profound impact on the work of Plaintiffs Hagmann and Sawyer.

The \$3,500,000 is comprised as follows:

- \$750,000 on behalf of Doug Hagmann;
- \$1,000,000 on behalf of Russ Dizdar;
- \$750,000 on behalf of Stephen Quayle; and
- \$1,000,000 on behalf of Craig Sawyer.

The Court also finds that the Plaintiffs' have demonstrated actual malice by clear and convincing evidence. The Defendant's relentless publications that the Plaintiffs are Satanic pedophiles were not at all made in good faith. They were especially damaging due to the line of work that the Plaintiffs are engaged in relating to anti human trafficking efforts. In making and publishing these numerous defamatory statements, Defendant Lee relied upon either no sources, or at best, non-credible sources; he had no regard for the truth and did not wish to hear any facts to the contrary. The Defendant did not contact any of the Plaintiffs for comment, nor did he respond to Mr. Dizdar's email. Defendant Lee purposefully avoided the truth, and exaggerated the heinous accusations that he made against the Plaintiffs by repeating them over and over and including exceptionally

inflammatory language. Plaintiffs have undoubtedly demonstrated the actual malice necessary for an award of punitive damages in the amount of \$1,150,000.

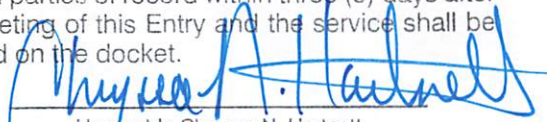
Therefore, the Court finds that judgment is awarded to the Plaintiffs Douglas J. Hagmann, Stephen Quayle, Craig Sawyer, and Russ Dizdar, and against Defendant Daniel John Lee in the total amount of \$4,650,000, to bear interest at the statutory rate from the date of judgment, plus court costs; and that the Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of additional court costs against the Defendant relating to the costs to execute this judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Hon. Chryssa N. Hartnett

**NOTICE TO CLERK:
FINAL APPEALABLE ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that notice and a copy of the foregoing Judgment Entry shall be served on all parties of record within three (3) days after docketing of this Entry and the service shall be noted on the docket.


Honorable Chryssa N. Hartnett