

No. 2024-46570

NATALIA ELMOWAFI, on behalf of Herself and all others similarly situated,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
V.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
CHRIS YANG and JOHN DOES 1-25,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	334 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
ALTERNATIVE SERVICE OF PROCESS**

Class Plaintiff Natalia Elmowafi files this, her Motion for Alternative Service of Process as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff and Class Members (collectively “Plaintiffs”) are victims of what is known as a “pig butchering” scam. Criminals, likely using aliases such as Defendant “Chris Yang,” lied to them, told them they were investing in cryptocurrency, created fake trading platforms, and then disappeared with their money. These scams have cost victims worldwide billions of dollars.

On July 24, 2024, Plaintiff moved for and was granted a temporary restraining order. The TRO granted Plaintiff leave to serve the Defendants electronically. As she demonstrated at the hearing on her application for temporary injunction, she did so.¹

The Court entered a temporary injunction on August 12, 2024. Since that time, no answer or responsive pleading has been filed.

As class plaintiff Natalia Elmowafi testified at the hearing on her application for temporary injunction, the scheme which resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of dollars began when she

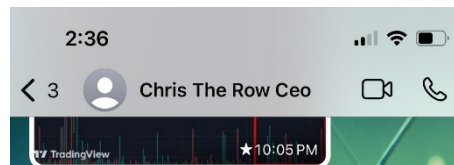
¹ Plaintiff adopts, as if fully set out herein, her motion to extend TRO, her request for temporary injunction, and the evidence submitted in support.

was contacted by someone identifying himself as “Chris Yang.” Over time, “Yang” gained Elmowafi’s trust, texting her via WhatsApp, sending her pictures, and even talking to her by video.

This is a picture of “Yang” the perpetrator shared with Elmowafi:



Yang told Elmowafi he was the CEO of a company called The Row (TR Apparel LLC d/b/a). That is how his name appears on WhatsApp, the encrypted texting service preferred by con artists such as “Yang:”



The Row is an international fashion business founded by actresses Ashley and Mary-Kate Olsen.² It is a Delaware LLC with its principal place of business in New York. On August 27, 2024, out of an abundance of caution and in order to attempt every possible means of service on the Defendants, Tamara Jones, a New York process server who had the photo of “Yang” above, went

² See <https://www.therow.com/pages/about-us>, last accessed on September 18, 2024.

to The Row's offices at 17 East 71st Street, New York, New York 10021 to find and serve "Chris Yang." The following occurred:

1) Unsuccessful Attempt: Aug 27, 2024, 3:58 pm EDT at 17 East 71st Street, New York, NY 10021 Maliki. Age: 50-55; Ethnicity: Caucasian; Gender: Female; Weight: 160; Height: 5'6"; Hair: Brown; Eyes: Brown; Relationship: Store Manager ; Other: Wore prescription glasses.; I arrived to 17 E 71st Street and was assisted by the manager, Maliki. I informed her that I had a package of legal documents for Chris Yang, who is known to be employed by "The Row". She didn't recognize the name Chris Yang, and I was Told he was not an employee there, but said she was authorized to accept service for "The Row". Because the service documents is assigned for the recipient: Chris Yang, Who is known to be an employee "The Row", I didn't served Maliki the documents, after she confirmed that Chris Yang didn't work at the company. After getting her first name (she would not give her last name), I left the premises.

Ex. A.

As set out in Plaintiff's Original Petition, Yang provided Elmowafi three U.S. phone numbers, stating that 424-335-4392 and 213-569-3590 were his personal numbers, and 917-470-7696 was his work number. *See* Plaintiff's Verified Original Petition at p. 10, para. 24. "Yang" texted Plaintiff repeatedly from those numbers. Now that physical service has been attempted and in an abundance of caution, Plaintiffs again move for leave to serve "Yang" via electronic means.

II. REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE OF PROCESS

Plaintiffs have attempted to physically serve "Yang," but have been unsuccessful. Accordingly, and pursuant to TEX.R.CIV.P. 106(b)(2), Plaintiffs request an order permitting them to serve process on him by sending a copy of the citation and petition via text message at the mobile phone numbers he is known to have used while interacting with Elmowafi: 424-335-4392, 213-569-3590, and 917-470-7696. Plaintiffs further request they be permitted to again upload the citation, petition, and temporary restraining order via a special purpose token to the wallets previously identified, known to be used and accessed by Defendants:

Binance

0x6E031365EBa4A48E47015aF708c943c2F119C52b
0xe4CAC07aaba8e667Ef8413aFDE82cdA897a80804
0x270Cb3c9869A2A09C23b8E0B838501724DAE5C9B
0xc70b18eAaa79f87E79deB79a9f6e2886CA7aEDbC
0xA66d89F035756F98FF9aC4a3b48e1E5fdE086E26

0x28E6d72063A5B9B26173F81609D07aF899682f7F
0x1F7C1deaDfB8FA8f5CD9A42cf34C70327c19C420
0xEeF5E766036AF94C5599C1025774706706F5B7ea
0x3Bf212B83c37A33fC4F2aF3f8fBDeBE25D4118F6
0x723a01d4344d97b0Cf937eEc599AFF717028108d
0x48ca7E8A3D62c546cD57BdDCE6354cfA72C3f478
0xd31734Cdeb17aE29Dfe161b1EF729e4611047E19
0x7db44943441A61Fe5359bea8c7b344f4Cc663Ca1
0x6Ba52c611A6fdAb14c77B5b12b53C9B85d0A4465
0x8851b21d296942e804b3Eaa47049BD62c7C419A8
0x33D591c68bfb5bAA6753dB30aa937756c6b3fA30
15Q1cvrFiG4rDPQa4CPT28v6v142KDtfYM

OKX

0xd49cd43230860f7A244D52FCD78a43CbE068e8Ff
0xa4A76eC9697Be8fcF1fDb907d9e2F64378c83762
0x0eC4E0303897a8E8b477Fdce43e577B3981b5617
0xdA22870E0Bd87133250fbC319476E278D7af93c2
0x5d8814d1268d70d89c2EE8cdF9e14fF64902fcE6

ByBit

0x64fA177058113A5D668A4a33809514740AB20a57
0xf614c8dA40D87B16a04150ec36fBC23e8f303aAf

KuCoin

0xCB63262C60aa7CBCe8E128F746D75DEf6B59dDA3

BloFin

0xE385be9087900D61db242d6776A1468Bc3EfebC5

HTX

1MspmvmHMLA2y841xapZcCEoFHiwG1yeap

All methods of communication identified above have been used by the Defendants within the past six months. See Plaintiffs' Verified Original Pet. at p. 10, para. 25.

III. CONCLUSION

Class Plaintiff Natalia Elmowafi requests the Court permit service of process as described above and for all other and further relief to which Plaintiff may show herself to be justly entitled. A proposed order is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tracy Moebes on behalf of Geoffrey Berg
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Envelope ID: 92435281
Filing Code Description: Motion (No Fee)
Filing Description: Motion for Alternative Service of Process
Status as of 9/25/2024 12:40 PM CST

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I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this November 19, 2024

Certified Document Number: 116649811 Total Pages: 6

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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