

On behalf of: Claimant
Witness: Trinity Corrine Esparza
No: First

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST
BETWEEN:**

QB-2018-006323

JOHN CHRISTOPHER DEPP II

Claimant

-and-

**(1) NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD
(2) DAN WOOTTON**

Defendant

**FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF
TRINITY CORRINE ESPARZA**

I, **TRINITY CORRINE ESPARZA**, of [REDACTED] Pasadena, California, 91101, businesswoman, **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the owner of Tri Provide, a company that provides concierge services and staffing for condominium complexes. Tri Provides services to the Eastern Columbia Lofts Columbia Lofts Homeowner Association Building, 849 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California, 90014 ("**the Eastern Columbia Lofts**"), a luxury condominium complex, where I also act as front desk supervisor. I have been employed at the Eastern Columbia Lofts for approximately six years in different capacities. I have acted as front desk supervisor for approximately six years. This is my first witness statement in these proceedings.

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2. Unless stated otherwise, the facts and matters referred to in this witness statement are within my own knowledge and true or are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief based on sources stated within this witness statement.
3. I make this witness statement in these proceedings.
4. I do not know the full details of the Claimant's claims against the Defendants in these proceedings. However, I understand that the Defendants allege that Mr. Depp physically abused Ms. Heard, causing her to suffer injury, on 21 May 2016.
5. The purpose of this witness statement is to provide my firsthand observations of events that occurred in the aftermath of this alleged incident.
6. I know Mr. John Christopher Depp II to be a former resident of the Eastern Columbia Lofts Columbia Lofts. I do not know Mr. Depp personally, nor do I recall ever having spoken with Mr. Depp, but I have seen Mr. Depp in the Eastern Columbia Lofts on a number of occasions.
7. I know Ms. Amber Heard to be a former resident of Penthouse 3 of the Eastern Columbia Lofts Columbia Lofts. I knew Ms. Heard for over a year in my position as front desk supervisor at the Eastern Columbia Lofts. I frequently saw and interacted with Ms. Heard in person, and frequently saw her and her friends and guests on security footage and have had a number of conversations with her. I do not know Ms. Heard outside of this professional relationship.
8. As front desk supervisor at the Eastern Columbia Lofts my regular working hours at that time were 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. between Monday and Friday. My primary duty in addition to assisting residents of the building generally is to maintain access control and otherwise maintain the security of the building, including observation of security camera monitors and recorded security footage. I have seen Mr. Depp and Ms. Heard together on security footage on a number of occasions. I never saw the two arguing or fighting.

I. Saturday, 21 May 2016

9. I was not on duty at the Eastern Columbia Lofts on May 21, 2016. However, at approximately midnight of May 21, I received a call from one of my employees, Ms. Gaylynn Sumerlin, to inform me that the police had responded to a call from the Penthouse at the Eastern Columbia Lofts. Ms. Sumerlin was on duty at the front desk at this time. Ms. Sumerlin informed me that two officers arrived at the Eastern Columbia Lofts.
10. As part of my duties in response to the incident I contacted Mr. Kevin Murphy, Mr. Depp's and Ms. Heard's property manager and my primary point of contact for their residency, by text message, in order to check that everything was OK. Mr. Murphy responded everything was good as far as he knew. As a result, I did not take any further action.

II. Sunday, May 22, 2016

11. On Sunday May 22, 2016, my Eastern Columbia Lofts colleague Cornelius Harrell called me to ask a question. During that conversation he told me that he had just met Amber Heard for the first time. He was excited to have just met and interacted directly with Ms. Heard for some length. He said she came down to pick up a case of wine that was in our package room. And he told me that Ms. Heard was "so beautiful, charismatic and well spoken."

III. Monday, 23 May 2016

12. On Monday, May 23, 2016 I was working at the front desk at the Eastern Columbia Lofts and saw Ms. Heard walking through the lobby. Ms. Heard and I greeted each other as we typically did, and she walked directly past me only a few feet from where I was sitting. Her demeanor was normal, and there appeared to be nothing out of the ordinary. I looked her right in the face as we said hello, and I saw no visible injuries whatsoever to Ms. Heard's face.

IV. Tuesday, 24 May 2016

13. On Tuesday, May 24, 2016 I was working at the front desk at the Eastern Columbia Lofts and had another encounter with Ms. Heard in close proximity and once again, I did not see any visible injuries to her face.

V. Wednesday, 25 May 2016

14. On Wednesday, May 25 2016 I was working at the front desk of the Eastern Columbia Lofts, when at approximately midday Ms. Heard came down to the lobby to give me a key for her unit, Penthouse 3, and asked me to give it to her housekeepers. I asked her for the first and last name of her housekeeper, and she said she did not know. I informed her that I was uncomfortable giving out Mr. Depp's key to a housekeeper without knowing the name. Ms. Heard stood at the other side of the front desk, at an arm's length away from me. We spoke for around three or four minutes about the liability of releasing a key without thorough authorization. Ms. Heard said words to the effect of "*you know who they are*" and that she was "*too busy to get their names.*" I asked her to try to get the names anyway. She told me to call Kevin Murphy their property manager, to obtain the names. I did ultimately obtain the housekeepers' names. During our conversation I did not see any bruises, cuts, swelling, red marks or any other injuries of any kind to Ms. Heard's face or body. Ms. Heard was not wearing any makeup at the time of our conversation. Her hair was back in a bun, and I told her "*your skin looks flawless.*" Then I asked her what moisturizer she used. She told me she got a lot of skin care for free, but she mostly uses a moisturizer that she had used since she was a child.

VI. Thursday, 26 May 2016

15. On Thursday, May 26, 2016, I do not recall seeing Ms. Heard.

VII. Friday, May 27 2016

16. On Friday, May 27, I was working at the desk of the Eastern Columbia Lofts. Amber Heard walked towards me with a sad look on her face. Now, for the first time that week, she had a red mark underneath her right eye. She said to me words to the effect of "*I'm getting a divorce*" to which I replied "*I'm so sorry. If there's anything you need, please let me know.*" She then left the building with her friend Rocky Pennington, who also lived in Mr. Depp's Penthouse 1. Either later that day or the following, I saw media reports that Ms. Heard had

obtained a restraining order against Mr. Depp for domestic abuse stemming from the May 21 alleged incident.

VIII. The Week of 30 May 2016

17. After seeing the news reports of Ms. Heard's battered faced and domestic abuse allegations, I was disturbed. When I went to work on Monday, May 30 2016 I knew this: I knew the police came to the penthouse the evening of May 21. I knew that Mr. Depp left on May 21 and had not yet returned. I knew my colleague Cornelius Harrell called me May 22 and said he just met a "beautiful" and unmarked Ms. Heard, spoke with her face to face and helped her pick up a case of wine. I knew that I saw and interacted with Ms. Heard Monday, May 23, Tuesday, May 24, and Wednesday May 25 with a clear, and unmarked face. I knew I saw her leave the building on the way to court with a face that appeared marked for the first time on Friday, May 27. Since my professional responsibility is to ensure the security of the building, I decided to go back and review security footage to gather more information about what precisely had occurred. That is when I realized with certainty that the story in the media did not add up.
18. I reviewed the security footage beginning on May 21, 2016. I saw Ms. Heard on a multitude of security camera footage clips, on each day of the ensuing week after May 21. I was able to zoom in on Ms. Heard's face in order to view the footage in greater detail. I did not see any bruises, cuts, swelling, red marks or any other injuries of any kind to Ms. Heard's face or body on review of the security footage.
19. While reviewing the security footage, I came across a video that made me even more skeptical of Ms. Heard's allegations. A security video date- and time-stamped the evening of Tuesday, May 24, 2016 showed Amber Heard's sister, Whitney Heard, Rocky Pennington and Ms. Heard (wearing a trench coat), entering from the mezzanine garage entrance. They appeared in high spirits. As they waited for the elevator, Ms. Heard's sister Whitney threw a fake punch into the visibly unmarked face of Ms. Heard. Then they all threw their heads back in laughter. Then they next got into the penthouse elevator, where there was another clear view of Ms. Heard's unmarked face. I was disturbed by this video and the others I

reviewed, so I discussed this matter with the Eastern Columbia Lofts' General Manager Brandon Patterson and with my colleague Alejandro Romero. I showed the "fake punch" video to both Mr. Patterson and Mr. Romero. I also told them Mr. Depp left the Eastern Columbia Lofts May 21 at 8:29 pm (there is video footage of his departure with his two security guards), and had not returned since.

20. I reviewed video of the beginning of the face-to-face meeting Cornelius Harrell described having with Ms. Heard on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 1 pm. I reviewed video of Ms. Heard meeting with me on May 25, 2016. In none of the videos prior to May 27, 2016 were there any marks on Ms. Heard's face.
21. Soon after Ms. Heard went public with her abuse allegations on May 27, 2016, Mr. Depp's lawyers subpoenaed building personnel and the security footage. A pair of Mr. Depp's lawyers came to the Eastern Columbia Lofts to go through our camera footage. I discretely told Mr. Depp's lawyers to look for footage from Tuesday evening, May 24, 2016 at the mezzanine level, in hopes they would find the "fake punch" video.
22. Later the week of May 30, 2016, Ms. Heard asked me for help. She said the paparazzi were bothering her. She asked me to go outside and bring her inside, and make sure she was not followed. I saw her face, which was visibly unmarked.
23. Shortly after Ms. Heard obtained a restraining order against Mr. Depp, a huge plant was delivered to the front desk for Ms. Heard and placed in the General Manager's office to store until pick-up. I called Laura Divenere, who acted as a kind of assistant for Ms. Heard and later worked for Elon Musk, and informed her that it had arrived. Ms. Divenere came down and picked up the plant and brought it to the penthouse. Later that day, another resident found a gift card in the elevator, which he opened. He brought the opened card to me, which read: "I had a wonderful weekend with you" and it was signed "E." I did not know who this card was for, and so I checked the security camera footage. It had fallen out of the huge plant. I contacted Ms. Divenere, who came down and collected the card.

IX. June 9, 2016

24. On June 9, 2016, Ms. Heard called me and asked me to help her. Specifically, she wanted help with certain media reports. I told her she would have to discuss that with the General Manager, Mr. Patterson. She asked if Mr. Patterson was in the building, and when I told her he was, she then came immediately down to speak with both of us. Ms. Heard made it clear to Mr. Patterson and me that she was upset at media reporting that building employees had asserted Ms. Heard was visibly uninjured in the week following her claimed injuries of May 21. She told us: *"I'm sure the front desk would never compromise the privacy of residents."* I understood this to be a warning not to speak with the media, which neither of us would do under any circumstances. But then Ms. Heard requested that we speak to her "friends" at People Magazine denying that building staff had made statements disputing her injury allegations. Mr. Patterson rejected this request, and we informed Ms. Heard that the advice of the lawyers for the Eastern Columbia Lofts was that we should not discuss residents' matters with external parties and that she should talk to the Eastern Columbia Lofts' lawyers.

X. June/July, 2016

Sometime in the middle of June or early July, 2016, several weeks after Mr. Depp left the Eastern Columbia Lofts on May 21 never to return, I was working at the front desk of the Eastern Columbia Lofts. On that late June or early July morning, Elon Musk came down from the only elevator that goes to the penthouses and asked me to fob him to the garage. It was around 9:00 am in the morning and he looked like he had just woken up with messy hair. I did not know who he was until a resident who saw me send him to the garage told me that was Elon Musk, his "hero." I spoke with Mr Romero about Mr. Musk, and he knew Mr. Musk to be a regular visitor to Mr. Depp's penthouse, and had observed him visiting her many times. Mr. Romero said that he had been visiting Ms. Heard late at night when Mr. Depp was away for more than a year at that point.

25. On the same day, after Elon Musk departed the building, Ms. Heard came down and approached me for help, explaining that she had dropped her keys down the trash chute. When we were standing next to each other I could see a number of marks on Ms. Heard's body. She had three small round bruises on the left hand side of her neck and two Band-Aids

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on her arm. Ms. Heard also had a faint mark on her left cheek, below her eye. That mark was approximately half an inch in length. I did not discuss any of the marks with Ms. Heard.

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I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: 

Trinity Corrine Esparza

Date: 12 December 2019

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