Case 2:19-cv-04871 PD Document 3 Filed 10/18/19 Page 1 of 15

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as

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ADDRESS LIST

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA 240 S. 4th Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 (Philadelphia County)

and

THE RT. REV. DANIEL G. P. GUTIERREZ 3717 Chestnut Street, Suite 300 Philadelphia, PA 19104 (Philadelphia County)

and

THE REV. IAN A. MONTGOMERY 2 Emerson Street Norwalk, CT 06855 (Fairfield County)

and

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, ROSEMONT, PENNSYLVANIA 1116 Lancaster Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 (Montgomery County)

and

HEIDI KOLBERG 245 N. Ithan Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 (Montgomery County)

.

and

SETH MARTIN
1111 County Line Road, Apt. 1
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
(Montgomery County)

Case 2:19-cv-0487 UND FED STATES PISTRICE (COURT)/18/19 Page 3 of 15 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate catendar)						
Address of Plaintiff: Dox 544, Macking NTOSOD Address of Defendant: 240 S. 48 St. Mile 04 18/06						
Address of Defendant.						
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1116 Lancester Are, Brys Marer, pd 18cxc						
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: NUA						
Case Number: Judge: Date Terminated:						
Evil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:						
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year yes No previously terminated action in this court?						
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit yes No pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?						
Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?						
Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No No No						
Tcertify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. DATE: HELS						
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)						
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)						
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Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable) EIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts						
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable) EIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts						

Civ. 609 (5/2018)

ADDRESS LIST

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and

THE REV. IAN A. MONTGOMERY 2 Emerson Street Norwalk, CT 06855 (Fairfield County)

and

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, ROSEMONT, PENNSYLVANIA 1116 Lancaster Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 (Montgomery County)

and

HEIDI KOLBERG 245 N. Ithan Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 (Montgomery County)

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and

SETH MARTIN 1111 County Line Road, Apt. 1 Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 (Montgomery County)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

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	v. /	:			
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(Civ. 660) 10/02

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MICHAEL DeFILIPPO	:
Box 544	:
Blackwood, NJ 08012	Citati Andran
Plaintiff,	: Civil Action
v.	•
v.	: No.:
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA	:
240 S. 4 th Street	:
Philadelphia, PA 19106	:
	:
and	:
THE DE DELL DANIEL O. D. CHEIEDDEZ	:
THE RT. REV. DANIEL G. P. GUTIERREZ	:
3717 Chestnut Street, Suite 300 Philadelphia, PA 19104	•
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and	:
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THE REV. IAN A. MONTGOMERY	:
2 Emerson Street	:
Norwalk, CT 06855	:
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and	
THE CHIRCH OF THE COOD SHEDHEDD	:
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, ROSEMONT, PENNSYLVANIA	•
1116 Lancaster Avenue	•
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	:
,	:
and	:
	:
HEIDI KOLBERG	:
245 N. Ithan Avenue	:
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	:
and	•
unu	•
SETH MARTIN	:
1111 County Line Road, Apt. 1	:
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	:
Defendants.	:

CIVIL ACTION - COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, MICHAEL DeFILIPPO (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, the Law Office of Faye Riva Cohen, P.C., brings this action against the named Defendants and avers as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This Court has original jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 82 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1) as the parties are citizens of different states: Plaintiff is a citizen and domiciled in New Jersey, Defendant THE REV. IAN A. MONTGOMERY is a citizen and resident of the state of Connecticut, and the remaining Defendants are citizens and/or entities in Pennsylvania.
- 2. This Court has original jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 82 U.S.C. § 1332(a) as the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e) because most of the Defendants may be found in this District and the acts complained of occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all other paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 5. Plaintiff is an adult individual and citizen and resident of the State of New Jersey, with an address of Box 544, Blackwood, NJ 08012.
- 6. Defendant EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA (hereinafter "the Diocese") is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its registered office located at 240 S. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
- 7. Defendant THE RT. REV. DANIEL G. P. GUTIERREZ (hereinafter "the Bishop") is the bishop ordinary of the Diocese, individually and as an agent of Diocese, is an adult individual, and citizen and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with an address of 3717 Chestnut Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19104.
- 8. Defendant THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, ROSEMONT, PENNSYLVANIA (hereinafter "the Church") is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its registered office located at 1116 Lancaster Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, and is a constituent member of the Diocese.

- 9. Defendant THE REV. IAN A. MONTGOMERY (hereinafter "Montgomery") was the parish priest of the Church and is an adult individual, and citizen and resident of the State of Connecticut, with an address of 2 Emerson Street, Norwalk, CT 06855.
- 10. Defendant HEIDI KOLBERG (hereinafter "Kolberg"), individually, and as an agent of the Church in her role as Senior Warden, is an adult individual, and citizen and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with an address of 245 N. Ithan Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.
- 11. Defendant SETH MARTIN (hereinafter "Martin"), individually, and as an agent of the Church and as the Office Administrator of the Church, is an adult individual, and citizen and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with an address of 1111 County Line Road, Apt. 1, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 12. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all other paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 13. Plaintiff has attended the Church for approximately thirty (30) years.
- 14. On or about October 24, 2017 Plaintiff attempted to participate in a Church meeting, interjecting his concerns about the direction the Church was taking.
- 15. At the October 24, 2017 meeting, Plaintiff's attempt at participating was met by Montgomery who was serving the Church as its parish priest who publicly and falsely claimed Plaintiff did not "belong" to the Church and did not financially give to the Church.
- 16. Montgomery's statements, mentioned above, were mad publically in the presence of all of the other attendees at the Church meeting, to the extreme humiliation, embarrassment, and shame of/to Plaintiff.
- 17. On or about March 11, 2018, when Plaintiff arrived at the Church for Sunday worship, he was approached by Kolberg and parishioner Anderson Wilson who told him he was not welcome at the Church.
- 18. On or about March 11, 2018 Kolberg also called the Radnor Township Police Department "the Police"), upon which Plaintiff voluntarily and independently left the Church before the Police arrived, and did not return to it until after Montgomery's departure from it as Plaintiff believed it was Montgomery who was ultimately responsible for the events described in Paragraph 17 and herein; per Plaintiff's information and belief, a police report was entered as a result of the call.
- 19. On or about October 21, 2018, when Plaintiff returned to the Church to worship for the first time since March 11, 2018, Martin called the Bishop to report to him that Plaintiff was present at the Church.

- 20. Upon receiving the call from Martin, the Bishop instructed Martin to call the Police for the purpose of having the Plaintiff removed from the Church's premises, which Martin subsequently did.
- 21. Upon information and belief, Martin and/or Kolberg communicated to the Bishop that Plaintiff carried a gun and threated to shoot someone at the Church on March 11, 2018 and October 21, 2018.
- 22. Furthermore, upon information and belief, Martin and/or Kolberg twice communicated to the Police (on March 11, 2018 and October 21, 2018) an unverified and entirely false allegation that Plaintiff carried a gun and threatened to shoot someone at the Church.
- 23. It was at the Bishop's instruction that Martin and/or Kolberg communicated to the Police an unverified and entirely false allegation that Plaintiff carried a gun and threatened to shoot someone at the Church.
- 24. Upon the arrival of the Police on October 21, 2018, Officer Joseph Lalor personally removed Plaintiff from the Church's premises and generated an official police report accordingly.
- 25. The Police inquired with Martin as to whether Plaintiff should be prosecuted for trespass, but Plaintiff was never charged with any crime.
- 26. Plaintiff then peacefully left the Church at the instruction of the Police.
- 27. Both times Plaintiff was removed from the Church by the Police (on March 11, 2018 and October 21, 2018), it was in view of the entire congregation, to the extreme humiliation, embarrassment, and shame of/to Plaintiff.
- 28. The allegations that Plaintiff did not belong to the Church or give financially to it are patently false and plainly absurd, as he belonged to the Church for nearly thirty (30) years and contributed thousands of dollars to it.
- 29. The allegation that Plaintiff carried a gun, much less threatened to use it on anyone, at the Church, is patently false and plainly absurd.
- 30. Plaintiff has had a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, has the highest security rating in New Jersey, remains a licensed private investigator, and would never risk his career or undermine his decades of training by misusing a firearm and/or issuing such careless threats to fellow parishioners.
- 31. Any claim and/or report that Plaintiff misuses a firearm, threatens people's life and safety, and/or may have committed a crime (e.g.: trespass), puts Plaintiff's licensure as a private investigator at risk and in jeopardy.

- 32. At all times material herein, the Bishop acted individually and as an agent of the Diocese; the Diocese is also liable for the actions of Bishop pursuant to the doctrine of *respondeat* superior.
- 33. At all times material herein, Martin and Kolberg acted individually and as agents of Church; the Church is liable for the actions of Martin and Kolberg pursuant to the doctrine of respondeat superior.
- 34. At all times material herein, Montgomery acted individually and as an agent of Church and Diocese; the Diocese and Church are also liable for the actions of Montgomery pursuant to the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

COUNT I DEFAMATION

- 35. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all other paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 36. A claim for defamation has the following elements: (1) a false statement purporting to be fact; 2) publication or communication of that statement to a third person; 3) fault amounting to at least negligence; and 4) damages, or some harm caused to the person or entity who is the subject of the statement.
- 37. Montgomery, Bishop, Kolberg, and Martin have clearly alleged multiple false statements as described in Paragraphs 15, 18, 21, 22, 23, 28, and 29.
- 38. The false statements mentioned in Paragraph 37 above were published and/or communicated to a third person as described in Paragraphs 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 27.
- 39. The false statements mentioned in Paragraph 37, and published/communicated as described in Paragraph 38, were intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, and negligently made by Montgomery, Bishop, Kolberg, and/or Martin as all parties herein knew the claims that Plaintiff did not belong to the Church, did not contribute financially to the Church, and carried a gun and/or threatened to use it on anyone at the Church are patently false.
- 40. Plaintiff has suffered damages and harm due to the publication/communication of the false statements (as described in Paragraphs 37 and 38) as he has suffered extreme humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and the emotional loss of his Church, his Church community, and his standing in the community, and any claim and/or report that Plaintiff misuses a firearm, threatens someone's life and safety, and/or may have committed a crime (e.g.: trespass), puts Plaintiff's licensure as a private investigator at risk and in jeopardy.

COUNT II FALSE LIGHT

- 41. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all other paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 42. The elements of a claim for false light are: (1) a party (e.g.: the Defendants) published non-flattering information about Plaintiff widely; (2) the publication of information identifies the Plaintiff; (3) the information places the Plaintiff in a "false light" that would be highly offensive to a reasonable person; and, (4) the party who published the information was at fault in publishing the information.
- 43. Montgomery, Bishop, Kolberg, and Martin published non-flattering information about Plaintiff, and did so widely, as described in Paragraphs 37 and 38.
- 44. The information published by Montgomery, Bishop, Kolberg, and Martin clearly identified Plaintiff as described in Paragraphs 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.
- 45. The information published by Montgomery, Bishop, Kolberg, and Martin clearly puts Plaintiff into a "false light" as described in Paragraph 37 and 39.
- 46. Montgomery, Bishop, Kolberg, and Martin are all at fault for intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, and negligently publishing the information (as described in Paragraph 38) knowing the claims that Plaintiff did not belong to the Church, did not contribute financially to the Church, and carried a gun and/or threatened to use it on anyone, at the Church are patently false.
- 47. Plaintiff has suffered damages and harm due to the publication/communication of the false statements (as described in Paragraphs 37 and 38) as he has suffered extreme humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and the emotional loss of his Church, his Church community, and his standing in the community, and any claim and/or report that Plaintiff misuses a firearm, threatens someone's life and safety, and/or may have committed a crime (e.g.: trespass), puts Plaintiff's licensure as a private investigator at risk and in jeopardy.

COUNT III MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

- 48. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all other paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 49. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff avers that Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg violated Pennsylvania's common law against malicious prosecution.
- 50. Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg initiated a criminal proceeding against Plaintiff by calling the Police against Plaintiff on two (2) separate occasions (as described in Paragraphs 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27) without probable cause with knowingly false claims (as described in

Paragraphs 37 and 38), and for malicious purposes other than bringing Plaintiff to justice.

- 51. Due to Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg initiating a criminal proceeding against Plaintiff, Officer Joseph Lalor personally removed Plaintiff from the Church's premises and generated an official police report accordingly.
- 52. Plaintiff prays that Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg be required to provide all appropriate remedies under Pennsylvania law.
- 53. Plaintiff has suffered damages and harm due to the publication/communication of the false statements (as described in Paragraphs 37 and 38) as he has suffered extreme humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and the emotional loss of his Church, his Church community, and his standing in the community, and any claim and/or report that Plaintiff misuses a firearm, threatens someone's life and safety, and/or may have committed a crime (e.g.: trespass), puts Plaintiff's licensure as a private investigator at risk and in jeopardy.

COUNT IV ABUSE OF PROCESS

- 54. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all other paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 55. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff avers that Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg violated Pennsylvania's common law against abuse of process via their making a false police report against Plaintiff (as described in Paragraphs 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 37, and 38) solely to harass him; Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg used a legal process against Plaintiff to accomplish a purpose which the process was not designed for, and it caused harm to Plaintiff.
- 56. Due to Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg initiating a false police report against Plaintiff, Officer Joseph Lalor personally removed Plaintiff from the Church's premises and generated an official police report accordingly.
- 57. Plaintiff has suffered damages and harm due to the publication/communication of the false police report (as described in Paragraphs 37 and 38) as he has suffered extreme humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and the emotional loss of his Church, his Church community, and his standing in the community, and any claim and/or report that Plaintiff misuses a firearm, threatens someone's life and safety, and/or may have committed a crime (e.g.: trespass), puts Plaintiff's licensure as a private investigator at risk and in jeopardy.
- 58. Plaintiff prays that Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg be required to provide all appropriate remedies under Pennsylvania law.

COUNT V NEGLIGENCE, RECKLESSNESS, WILLFUL CONDUCT, WANTON CONDUCT AND GROSS NEGLIGENCE

- 59. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all other paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 60. The five (5) elements that a plaintiff must prove to win a negligence claim are (1) there is a duty of care owed by the defendant to the plaintiff; (2) defendant breached that duty; (3) there is an actual causal connection between the defendant's breach of duty and the resulting harm; (4) proximate cause, which relates to whether the harm was foreseeable; and, (5) damages resulting from the defendant's breach of duty.
- 61. Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg all owed Plaintiff a duty of care that their voluntarily taken actions would not cause him undue harm or damage.
- 62. Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg breached their duty as described in Paragraph 61 by the actions taken as described in Paragraphs 37 and 38.
- 63. As a direct and proximate result of Bishop, Martin, and Kolberg's breach of duty (as described in Paragraph 62), Plaintiff was harmed through the suffering of extreme humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and the emotional loss of his Church, his Church community, and his standing in the community, and any claim and/or report that Plaintiff misuses a firearm, threatens someone's life and safety, and/or may have committed a crime (e.g.: trespass), puts Plaintiff's licensure as a private investigator at risk and in jeopardy.

JURY DEMAND

- 64. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the prior paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 65. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, Plaintiff respectfully requests this Honorable Court to:

- (a) enter a judgment in his favor of at least \$75,000 plus court costs, attorneys' fees, punitive damages;
- (b) order the expungment and/or removal and/or striking and/or redaction of the two (2) police reports entered against Plaintiff;
- (c) order Plaintiff to be permitted to enter and/or attend the Church;
- (d) order Plaintiff to have his status with the Church and/or Diocese restored to a member and/or parishioner in good standing;

- (e) order the Church to issue a parish wide letter of apology to Plaintiff for the harms, damages, and actions described herein;
- (f) and any and all other remedies this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

LAW OFFICE OF FAYE RIVA COHEN, P.C.

FAYERIVA COHEN, ESQUIRE

Attorney for Plaintiff 2047 Locust Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

(T) 215-563-7776

(F) 215-563-9996

Date: Obber 18, 2019

VERIFICATION

I, MICHAEL DeFILIPPO, hereby verify that I am the Plaintiff in the within case and that the statements made in the foregoing Complaint are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I understand that false statements are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

MICHAEL DEFILIPPO

Date: Ochler 18, 2019