Vanginderen v. Cornell University et al

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TO DEFENDANT AND HIS ATTORNEYS OF RECORD, IF ANY:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 22, 2008, at 11 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, Courtroom 15, located at 940 Front Street, San Diego, California 92101, defendant Cornell University ("Cornell") will and hereby does move for an order striking the First Amended Complaint ("FAC") of plaintiff Kevin Vanginderen ("Plaintiff") in its entirety, with prejudice and without leave to amend, and, further awarding Cornell its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this special motion to strike.

This special motion to strike will be and is made upon the following grounds.

In 2007, Plaintiff sued defendant Cornell University ("Cornell") for defamation and disclosure related to a 1983 newspaper report of Plaintiff's criminal activities (the "2007 Action"). Cornell removed the 2007 Action to this Court. Deixler served as lead counsel in the 2007 Action. In defending Cornell in the 2007 Action, Cornell, through Deixler, submitted to this Court unsealed records that contained Cornell's investigation and report to police of Plaintiff's criminal activities in 1983 (the "Unsealed Records"). On April 8, 2008, Plaintiff filed an additional lawsuit against Cornell based on alleged libelous information contained in the Unsealed Records and against Deixler for his role in filing them. On May 5, 2008, Cornell and Deixler filed Special Motions to Strike Plaintiff's Complaint. On June 5, 2008, the Court granted Plaintiff leave to file an amended complaint, which Plaintiff filed on June 13, 2008.

Plaintiff indisputably has filed a "strategic lawsuit against public participation" ("SLAPP") that is barred by the anti-SLAPP statute, California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.16. Because the FAC is a SLAPP lawsuit, section 425.16(b)(1) and relevant Ninth Circuit authorities require that the FAC be stricken unless Plaintiff makes a prima facie showing that his claims are legally and factually sufficient. Plaintiff cannot show either because, as set forth in detail in Cornell's accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities, both Cornell's report to the police and Cornell's filings to this Court in the 2007 Action are protected by the litigation privilege (Cal. Civ. Code § 47(b)) and the Noerr-Pennington Doctrine. Further, the investigation and report to the police were factually accurate.

| 1 | As the FAC is a SLAPP lawsuit unsupported by law or fact, Cornell is entitled to recover |
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| 2 | from Plaintiff Cornell's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this special |
| 3 | motion to strike, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 425.16(c) and relevant |
| 4 | Ninth Circuit authorities. |
| 5 | This special motion to strike will be and is based upon this Notice, the accompanying |
| 6 | Memorandum of Points and Authorities; the Declarations of Clifford S. Davidson and Timothy |
| 7 | Stanley; the Notice of Bert Deixler's Special Motion and Bert Deixler's Special Motion to Strike |
| 8 | Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint Pursuant to Section 425.16 of the California Code of Civil |
| 9 | Procedure; the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Bert Deixler's Special |
| 10 | Motion to Strike Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint Pursuant to Section 425.16 of the California |
| 11 | Code of Civil Procedure; the records and files in this action; the records and files in dismissed case |
| 12 | Kevin Vanginderen v. Cornell University, Case No. 07-CV-2045 BTM(JMA), now on appeal; and |
| 13 | upon such further oral and documentary evidence as may be presented at or before the hearing on |
| 14 | this special motion to strike. |
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| 16 | DATED: June 30, 2008 Nelson E. Roth CORNELL UNIVERSITY |
| 17 18 | Bert H. Deixler |
| 19 | Clifford S. Davidson PROSKAUER ROSE LLP |
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| 21 | /s/ Clifford S. Davidson Clifford S. Davidson |
| 22 | Attorneys for Defendant, CORNELL UNIVERSITY |
| 23 | CORNELL UNIVERSITY |
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