

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND – BALTIMORE DIVISION

ALBERT SNYDER,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Case No. 1:06-cv-1389-RDB

FRED W. PHELPS, SR.;
SHIRLEY L. PHELPS-ROPER;
REBEKAH A. PHELPS-DAVIS; and,
WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.,
Defendants.

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
2008 JAN 30 A 11:22
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DEPUTY

**DEFENDANTS PHELPS-DAVIS & PHELPS-ROPER'S
SUPPLEMENT IN SUPPORT OF POST-TRIAL MOTIONS**

Rebekah A. Phelps-Davis and Shirley L. Phelps-Roper, as pro se defendants herein, hereby jointly submit the following supplement to their pending post-trial motions.

On January 25, 2008, plaintiff contacted a television station in Pennsylvania, WHTM, to prompt an interview for public airing. The topic was the death of Heath Ledger, an internationally-known-and-discussed movie star who recently died, and defendants' commentary about that public event. Like the rest of the world's voices, Westboro Baptist Church and its members have commented on that young man's death, and the relationship between his death and the fact that he played the role of a homosexual cowboy who committed adultery on his wife with a man in a movie called *Brokeback Mountain*, released in late 2005. In his interview, plaintiff bitterly complains about defendants' comments and religious viewpoints about Heath Ledger's death.

A copy of the news story is attached, along with a transcript. In his comments, plaintiff states that defendants' comments about Heath Ledger are hate crimes; and that he is expecting this Court to use its bond authority to try to silence further words by defendants. At the time plaintiff prompted and gave this interview, and right up to this hour, defendants have not picketed anywhere near Heath Ledger's funeral; haven't held up a single picket sign anywhere in the vicinity of any kind of funeral or memorial service for Heath Ledger; and have instead only commented on the very public debate occurring about how Heath Ledger lived and died, particularly his very high profile endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle. This demonstrates further that what plaintiff really wants – and what this case has always been about – is for defendants not to utter a single word any time, any place, in any manner, about God's standard on this vital world issue; and instead wants defendants to be forced into silence on this topic.

Plaintiff also complains that the media covers defendants' words and actions, *totally unrelated to plaintiff or his son*, even though as one of the reporters at WHTM points out near the end of the story, it is *plaintiff* who initiated this coverage by his contact with the TV station. This self-initiated coverage by plaintiff illustrates again that no matter where, how or when defendants comment on the topic of homosexuality, or the wrath of God in response to this nation's international known endorsement of homosexuality, plaintiff wants defendants silenced and punished for their words. This case has nothing to do with the disruption of a funeral, or of the grieving process, or anything else, but disagreement with words. This is a very slipper slope, allowing

plaintiff to use this Court as his personal club to try to silence someone with whom he disagrees.

The words which plaintiff refers to as a hate crime, and which he ties directly to this Court's bond authority in this case, have nothing to do with plaintiff, his son, or a soldier's funeral. They have, instead, to do with an international icon for homosexuality (a man that used his considerable public platform to pronounce that God is a liar; when he God said that homosexuality is an abomination, and "Thou shalt not commit adultery," this man said by his words and deeds, "That is a lie; it is in fact okay to be gay; it is okay to cheat on your wife, thereby committing adultery;" and many more words whereby he taught rebellion and disobedience to this generation), and the manner in which the nation and world have responded to how he lived and how he died, with particular focus on his unique role as a "gay cowboy" in *Brokeback Mountain*. It's difficult to imagine more public matters than Heath Ledger, his most famous role as an actor, and his untimely and unusual death.

This interview that plaintiff sought out illustrates further and again that this case has nothing to do with the disruption of a funeral or plaintiff's grieving process, or any injury to plaintiff by defendants related to his son's funeral. Rather, it has to do with the fact that plaintiff hates defendants' religious beliefs and words, and believes this Court is his personal club for him to use to beat defendants into silence. It further illustrates, contrary to the arguments and rulings herein, that plaintiff has made himself a public figure, seeks publicity about his son's life and death, and has fully inserted himself into the vortex of the public arena on issues about which defendants make religious

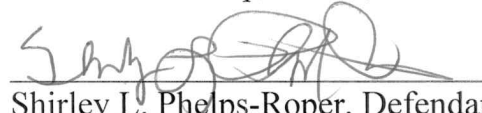
commentary and picket, which religious commentary and picketing this Court has permitted to serve as the basis for liability herein. It further illustrates that plaintiff has plenty of remedy available if he doesn't like the words he heard in connection with his son's public/published death as a soldier, to wit, disagree in the public arenas. Plaintiff has used the media and many other public fora repeatedly to have full unrestrained opportunity to disagree with defendants' words. He's not entitled to anything further; and his emotional distress is nothing more than his visceral disagreement with *all* of the theology of defendants.

This latest publicity about plaintiff – at his hand – is further illustration of the fundamental legal and factual flaws in the verdict herein. For this additional reason, the verdict should be set aside, in full, and plaintiff should be sent back to the public arena where his disagreement with defendants' words belongs.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebekah A. Phelps-Davis, Defendant Pro Se



Shirley L. Phelps-Roper, Defendant Pro Se

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

We hereby certify that the foregoing supplement was served on January 29, 2008, as follows:

Original + 2 copies, with 2-hole punch, by express mail, with return envelope, to:

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