

1 Mark Punzalan (SBN: 247599)
2 Email: markp@punzalanlaw.com
3 Heidi Kim (SBN: 247699)
4 Email: heidik@punzalanlaw.com
5 PUNZALAN LAW, P.C.
6 600 Allerton St., Suite 200
7 Redwood City, CA 94063
8 Telephone: 650-362-4150
9 Facsimile: 650-362-4151

7 Todd G. Cole (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
8 COLE LAW GROUP, PC
9 750 Old Hickory Blvd.
10 Building Two, Suite 202
11 Brentwood, TN 37027
12 Telephone: 615-490-6020
13 Facsimile: 615-942-5914

11 Counsel for Plaintiffs Jason Cross, a/k/a Mikel Knight,
12 1203 Entertainment, LLC, and
13 MDRST Marketing/Promotions, LLC

14 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

15 FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

16 (Unlimited Jurisdiction)

17 JASON CROSS a/k/a MIKEL KNIGHT;
18 1203 ENTERTAINMENT, LLC; and
19 MDRST Marketing/Promotions, LLC;

20 Plaintiffs,

21 vs.

22 FACEBOOK, INC., and DOES ONE through
23 FIFTH, inclusive,

24 Defendants,

No. **CIV537384**

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR:

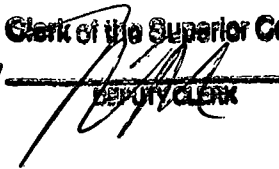
1. Breach of Written Contract;
2. Negligent Misrepresentation;
3. Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Relations;
4. Violation of California Civil Code § 3344; and
5. Violation of Rights of Publicity, California Common Law
6. Unlawful and Unfair Business Practices in Violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

FILED
SAN MATEO COUNTY

FEB 16 2016

Clerk of the Superior Court

By  **DEPUTY CLERK**

1 Plaintiffs Jason Cross a/k/a Mikel Knight (“Knight”), 1203 Entertainment, LLC (“1203
2 Entertainment”), and MDRST Marketing/Promotions, LLC (“MDRST”), allege as follows:

3 **PARTIES**

4 1. Plaintiff Jason Cross, a/k/a Mikel Knight, an individual, is a citizen and resident of
5 Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. Knight is an American recording artist in the music genre of Country Rap,
6 and his stage name is Mikel Knight.

7 2. Plaintiff 1203 Entertainment is a Tennessee limited liability company with its
8 principal place of business at 14919 Lebanon Road, Suite B, Old Hickory, Tennessee 37138.
9 1203 Entertainment is in the business of managing and promoting recording artists, including
10 Knight.

11 3. Plaintiff MDRST is a Tennessee limited liability company with its principal place
12 of business at 14919 Lebanon Rd, Ste E, Old Hickory, Tennessee 37138. MDRST is a subsidiary
13 of 1203 Entertainment and handles 1203 Entertainment’s marketing, promotions, and distribution.

14 4. Defendant Facebook, Inc. (“Facebook”) is a corporation formed under the laws of
15 the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at 1601 Willow Road, Menlo Park,
16 California.

17 **STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION**

18 5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution
19 Article XI, §10 and under the California Code of Civil Procedure (“C.C.P”) §410.10 because
20 Defendant transacted business and committed the alleged acts in California. Defendant is
21 headquartered in California and has systematically and continually conducted business in this
22 County. Additionally, the circumstances giving rise to this action occurred whole or in part in the
23 county in which this Court sits.

24 **ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

25 6. Mikel Knight is an American recording artist in the genre of Country Rap / Urban
26 Country. Knight’s music is available on streaming music services such as Spotify, and his music
27 videos are available on music video services such as Vevo.

1 7. As part of their marketing efforts, Knight and his record label, 1203 Entertainment,
2 have promoted and marketed Knight's music and other 1203 Entertainment artists by selling
3 music directly to consumers. Toward this end, 1203 Entertainment, through its subsidiary now
4 known as MDRST, hired independent contractors to travel across the country to sell Knight's
5 compact discs and merchandise to the public. These independent contractors sell merchandise
6 from vans distinctly emblazoned with the name and logo of the "Maverick Dirt Road Street Team,"
7 a reference to one of Knight's stage names "The Maverick."

8 8. On or around June 9, 2014, in Daggett County, Utah, one of 1203 Entertainment's
9 MDRST vans was involved in an accident. The van's driver, an independent contractor for 1203
10 Entertainment, purportedly fell asleep while driving and crashed into a tree. The passenger, who
11 was also an independent contractor for 1203 Entertainment, sustained significant injuries.

12 9. One week later, on June 16, 2014, another 1203 Entertainment van was involved in
13 an accident in Texas. Similar to the June 9th accident, the van's driver, also an independent
14 contractor for 1203 Entertainment, fell asleep while driving, which led to accident in which the
15 vehicle rolled over. The two passengers, both of whom were also MDRST independent contractors,
16 were killed.

17 10. Although Knight was not present at the site of the June 2014 accidents, in June
18 2015, several relatives of the persons that died in these accidents filed lawsuits against Knight in
19 Tennessee state court. These lawsuits were later removed to the Middle District of Tennessee and
20 are currently pending.

21 **Users Create Facebook Pages Inciting Violence Against Knight**

22 11. Shortly after the June 2014 accidents, without Mikel Knight's consent or
23 authorization, a Facebook group page using Mikel Knight's name and likeness was created
24 entitled "Families Against Mikel Knight." This page was entirely separate from Mikel Knight's
25 official Facebook page, which 1203 Entertainment created in August 2010.

26 12. Based on information and belief, this unauthorized Facebook page was created by
27 persons related to the injured and deceased independent contractors in the June 9th and June 16th
28 accidents discussed above. The creators of the unauthorized Facebook page used the page as a

1 forum to post comments inciting violence and death threats against Knight and members of 1203
2 Entertainment. While many statements contained threats of physical violence, some statements
3 rose to the level of death threats. For example, one commenter on the Facebook page stated that
4 Knight needed to be "Took out," apparently a slang term for being murdered. One commenter
5 also posted that if Knight came to her state (North Carolina), "they would be done." Another
6 commenter stated that Knight "needs to be shot." Attached hereto as Exhibit A is an example of
7 the comments posted on the unauthorized Facebook page (the names and pictures of the
8 commenters have been redacted).

9 13. In addition to the threats, many of the comments posted on the unauthorized
10 Facebook page contained false and derogatory statements about Knight and 1203 Entertainment.
11 For instance, commenters falsely claimed that Knight and 1203 Entertainment's treatment of
12 independent contractors amounted to "human trafficking." The commenters also attacked a non-
13 profit organization to which Knight donated as accepting "blood money" and falsely accused
14 Knight of exploiting "young kids."

15 14. As a direct result of the violent threats and false accusations on the unauthorized
16 Facebook page, MDRST independent contractors driving the MDRST vans across the country
17 have not only been verbally threatened but also physically assaulted.

18 15. For example, on June 22, 2015, in Mobile County, Alabama, Jason Richardson, a
19 1203 Entertainment independent contractor was working in a van emblazoned with the MDRST
20 logo. At approximately 11:00 pm that evening, a group of people began rocking the MDRST van
21 and yelled at the persons inside the van. Persons within the mob of people asked Richardson if he
22 "wanted to fight" and stated that MDRST was "doing stuff to kids" and that they "heard about it
23 on Facebook."

24 16. In another incident on June 25, 2015, Mark Pena, another 1203 Entertainment
25 independent contractor in a MDRST van, was accosted at a gas station in Meridian, Mississippi by
26 a group of people in three trucks. The men yelled at Mr. Pena to get out of town within ten
27 minutes and called Pena and the other MDRST independent contractors "human traffickers" based
28 on information they "heard on Facebook." Mr. Pena also saw that one of the drivers had a pistol

1 on his lap. These were just two of the many examples of the assaults and threats encountered by
2 MDRST independent contractors.

3 **The Unauthorized Facebook Page Hampers Knight's Business Deals**

4 17. In addition to these threats, the unauthorized Facebook page also severely impacted
5 Knight and 1203 Entertainment's business deals. As one of the pioneers in the Country Rap /
6 Urban Country music genre, Knight created MDRST to market and promote Knight's music.
7 MDRST has secured a number of lucrative business deals on behalf of Knight. The marketing and
8 promotions plan executed by MDRST was designed to build on its previous successes. Knight
9 laid down the foundation for MDRST to visit potential sales markets by performing 256 shows in
10 26 months. He then created the MDRST sales and marketing team, which sold an average of
11 40,000 CDs during each 26-day sales cycle and was the quarterly average for the first three
12 quarters of 2015. In 2014 and 2015, Knight was in negotiations with numerous companies to sign
13 lucrative business deals involving his music.

14 18. However, a number of those companies halted business discussions with Knight
15 after viewing the false information on the unauthorized Facebook page. In November 2014, 1203
16 Entertainment began negotiating with Nielsen SoundScan ("SoundScan") to track Mikel Knight's
17 record sales. SoundScan is one of the leading information and sales tracking companies for music
18 and music video products in the United States. Also, because SoundScan is the sales source for
19 the Billboard music charts, SoundScan is the largest source of sales records in the music industry.

20 19. SoundScan had been involved discussions with Knight and 1203 Entertainment to
21 buy a mobile application from 1203 Entertainment that could track sales from Knight's mobile
22 record stores. After significant negotiations lasting months, SoundScan pulled out of the deal and
23 specifically stated that it could not do business with Knight because of the allegations on the
24 unauthorized Facebook page. Because SoundScan would not do any business with Knight,
25 Knight's music stayed off the Billboard charts for an entire year. Had it not been for the
26 allegations on the unauthorized Facebook page, Knight's music would have placed in the Top Ten
27 on the Hip Hop and Country charts and appeared in Billboard magazine. Instead, Knight's music
28 was denied this prestigious recognition, resulting in the loss of publicity and sales.

1 20. Moreover, in December 2014, Knight was in the negotiations with the Dallas
2 Cowboys, the National Football League team, to play Knight's hit song "Cowboy Way" at the
3 Cowboys' home games. As part of this deal, Knight would also give out 50,000 iTunes cards to
4 Cowboys fans to download "Cowboy Way" for free. However, based on information and belief,
5 the Cowboys viewed the unauthorized Facebook page during negotiations and decided to halt
6 further negotiations. One person from the Cowboys organization also specifically told Knight and
7 stated, "We don't want to business with people like you," and instructed Knight to not call the
8 Cowboys again.

9 21. Additionally, the unauthorized Facebook pages contained comments inviting
10 people to look out for the MDRST vans by falsely claiming the vans were involved in apparent
11 kidnapping attempts. For example, in one post, a commenter posted a picture of an MDRST van
12 and informed the public to call the police because persons in the van were "taking snatching [sic]
13 people up." As a result of these false comments, numerous MDRST vans, because of their
14 distinctive branding, were stopped by law enforcement in numerous states, including Georgia,
15 Michigan, and Alabama. Although none of the MDRST independent contractors were involved in
16 any wrongdoing, law enforcement expressed their anger with MDRST independent contractors
17 with the number of calls. In one incident in Alabama, one police officer angrily told a 1203
18 Entertainment that "if we get another call, we will take you straight to jail."

19 22. Moreover, numerous police departments were forced to issue warnings on social
20 media (including Facebook) that the kidnapping accusations were false and for citizens not to call
21 911. In Nahunta, Georgia, the Brantley County police instructed people to not call 911 because
22 "the Facebook warning that is circulating about this van involved in a kidnapping is false." See
23 Exhibit B.

24 **Facebook Refuses to Disable the Unauthorized Mikel Knight Page In Violation of Its**
25 **Terms of Service**

26 23. In August 2010, Knight created his own authorized Facebook page. When he
27 created his page, Knight accepted Facebook's Terms of Service, which specifically prohibit the
28 type of harassing and violent speech Knight encountered. Specifically, the Terms of Service state:

- a. "You will not bully, intimidate, or harass any user."
- b. "You will not post content that: is hate speech, threatening, or pornographic; [or] incites violence..."
- c. "You will not use Facebook to do anything unlawful, misleading, malicious, or discriminatory."
- d. "You will not post content or take any action on Facebook that infringes or violates someone else's rights or otherwise violates the law."
- e. "If you repeatedly infringe other people's intellectual property rights, we will disable your account when appropriate."

24. Moreover, the Terms of Service also specifically incorporates "supplemental terms" associated with the Facebook application. In another supplemental term found in Facebook's "Community Standards" section, Facebook also states the following:

We remove content, disable accounts, and work with law enforcement when we believe there is a genuine risk of physical harm or direct threats to public safety."

25. As part of the supplemental terms, Facebook also prohibited the creation of pages using another user's likeness without the user's authorization. As the supplemental terms state:

You agree to use your authentic name and identity. You may not publish the personal information of others without their consent.

Facebook also prohibits users from infringing on the Intellectual Property of other users.

26. Despite these representations, Facebook has refused to disable the unauthorized Facebook page. On June 5, 2015, Knight and 1203 Entertainment, through their counsel, sent a letter to Facebook demanding that Facebook remove the unauthorized Facebook page pursuant to the Terms of Service. Plaintiffs contacted Facebook to stem the physical harm to 1203 Employees and to halt the significant impact on Knight and 1203 Entertainment's business.

27. As of June 22, 2015, Facebook had not responded to the June 5th letter. To prevent further harm, Knight and 1203 Entertainment filed a Petition for Pre-Litigation Discovery

1 (hereinafter, the "Petition") in the Circuit Court of Davidson County, Tennessee, to obtain
2 information about the individuals that had incited violence against Plaintiffs.

3 28. On June 30, 2015, Facebook responded to Plaintiff's June 5th letter and stated that
4 it was "not in a position to act on the reported content," and refused to remove the page. In
5 response, Plaintiffs sent a response to Facebook providing affidavits and evidence detailing the
6 physical harm faced by Knight and MDRST independent contractors.

7 29. On July 8, 2015, Facebook told Plaintiffs that the unauthorized Facebook page
8 "had already been removed from Facebook." However, this was entirely false. As of July 9, 2015,
9 the unauthorized Facebook page was not removed from Facebook and was completely available
10 for public access, even to persons without a Facebook account.

11 30. On July 15, 2015, Facebook sent another letter informing Plaintiffs that it should
12 seek recourse against the parties that posted the comments inciting violence. However, Facebook
13 would not provide the names of the perpetrators. Again, Facebook refused to take down the
14 unauthorized Facebook page.

15 31. By December 2015, it appeared that Facebook had disabled the original
16 unauthorized Facebook page. However, as of the filing of this Complaint, Facebook two
17 unauthorized Facebook pages using Knight's likeness continue to be accessible to the public:

18 "Jason cross aka mikel knight"

19 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jason-cross-aka-mikel-knight/806397209385065>

20 "Prove yourself Jason Cross aka Mikel Knight"

21 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Prove-yourself-Jason-Cross-aka-Mikel-Knight/1510278499186306>

22 32. In comparison, other social media sites have taken down content that has harassed
23 or incited violence against Knight. For example, on June 5, 2015, Plaintiffs also requested that
24 Pinterest, an interactive computer service (like Facebook), take down similarly violent threats to
25 Knight. On June 24, 2015, Pinterest removed this content. Plaintiffs alerted Pinterest on August 4,
26 2015, that additional violent comments were posted to Pinterest, and Pinterest immediately
27 removed the new content on August 11, 2015.

1 33. By refusing to disable the unauthorized Facebook pages, Facebook has engaged in
2 conduct that has and will continue to cause significant physical harm to Knight and MDRST
3 independent contractors. Indeed, Plaintiffs have informed Facebook with affidavits stating the
4 level of physical harm. But by refusing to disable the pages, Facebook acted with a willful and
5 conscious disregard for the safety of Knight and MDRST independent contractors.

6 34. Moreover, it appears that Facebook has refused to take down the unauthorized
7 Facebook pages because of the potential loss of advertising revenue. Facebook generates
8 approximately 80% of its revenue from advertising, and in 2014, Facebook generated \$10 billion
9 in advertising revenue. Because Facebook continues to place ads on all the unauthorized
10 Facebook pages, Facebook has refused to disable the unauthorized Facebook pages to continue
11 generating revenue at the expense of Knight's likeness.

12
13 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
14 **(Breach of Written Contract by Plaintiff Knight)**

15 35. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above, as though
16 fully set forth in this cause of action.

17 36. In exchange for Knight signing up with Facebook, Knight and Facebook entered
18 into a contract as a Facebook user and accepted Facebook's Terms of Service. These Terms of
19 Service provided numerous prohibitions to protect and benefit Knight, other Facebook users, and
20 others who interacted with Facebook. These prohibitions included, among other things:

- 21 a. The bullying, intimidation, and harassment of other users;
- 22 b. Hate speech, or other speech that would invite violence;
- 23 c. Actions that are unlawful, misleading, or malicious;
- 24 d. The infringement or violation of someone else's rights or otherwise violates
25 the law; and
- 26 e. The infringement of other people's intellectual property rights.

27 37. The Terms of Service also specifically incorporate supplemental terms by which
28 Facebook expressly promised Plaintiff to remove content and disable accounts where there is a

1 risk of physical harm or direct threats to public safety. The supplemental terms also prohibit the
2 creation of pages of using another user's likeness without the user's information.

3 38. By refusing to disable the unauthorized Facebook pages, Facebook has violated the
4 Terms of Service and has breached the Terms of Service. This failure to meet the promises and
5 obligations of Facebook's written promises constitutes an express breach of contract.

6 39. As a result of Facebook's breach, Plaintiff has suffered damages.

7
8 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
9 **(Negligent Misrepresentation by Plaintiff Knight)**

10 40. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above, as though
11 fully set forth in this cause of action.

12 41. In August 2010, Facebook represented to Knight in its Terms of Service that the
13 following types of conduct were prohibited:

- 14 a. The bullying, intimidation, and harassment of other users;
- 15 b. Hate speech, or other speech that would invite violence;
- 16 c. Actions that are unlawful, misleading, or malicious;
- 17 d. The infringement or violation of someone else's rights or otherwise violates
18 the law; and
- 19 e. The infringement of other people's intellectual property rights.

20 42. Facebook also expressly promised Plaintiff that it would remove content and
21 disable accounts where there is a risk of physical harm or direct threats to public safety. The
22 supplemental terms also prohibit the creation of pages of using another user's likeness without the
23 user's information.

24 43. Facebook's representations, however, were not true. As a Facebook user, Knight
25 experienced bullying, intimidation, and harassment from other users, the infringement of his
26 likeness, and language intended to incite violence. Facebook has not removed the content or
27 disabled accounts with this speech.
28

44. At the time in made these representations, Facebook had no reasonable grounds for believing it would remove content or disable accounts where users experienced the prohibited conduct.

45. Facebook intended that Knight rely on its representations when Knight signed up for Facebook.

46. Knight reasonably relied on Facebook's representation when signing up for Facebook.

47. As detailed herein, Knight has been harmed and has suffered damages.

48. Knight's reliance on Facebook's representation was a substantial factor in causing his harm.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
**(Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Relations
by Plaintiffs Knight and 1203 Entertainment)**

49. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above, as though fully set forth in this cause of action.

50. As detailed in Paragraphs 17 and 18 above, Knight and 1203 Entertainment were involved in various business negotiations involving SoundScan and the Dallas Cowboys organization. Both deals would have resulted in a future economic benefit to Knight and 1203 Entertainment.

51. Because Knight was a recording artist, Facebook knew or should have known about these business relationships.

52. Facebook should have known that these relationships would be disrupted if it failed to act with reasonable care.

53. Facebook failed to act with reasonable care by not disabling the unauthorized Facebook pages.

54. Facebook engaged in wrongful conduct in not removing or disabling the unauthorized Facebook pages.

1 55. Facebook's failure to act with reasonable care disrupted Knight and 1203
2 Entertainment's business relationships.

3 56. Plaintiffs were harmed.

4 57. Facebook's wrongful conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm.

5 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
6 **(Deprivation of Rights of Publicity**
7 **Violation of California Civil Code § 3344 by Plaintiff Knight)**

8 58. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above, as though
9 fully set forth in this cause of action.

10 59. Facebook has knowingly and intentionally utilized Knight's likeness on the
11 unauthorized Facebook pages without Knight's consent.

12 60. Facebook has used Knight's name and likeness for the purpose of advertising on
13 the unauthorized Facebook pages.

14 61. As a result of Facebook's misappropriation of Knight's publicity rights, Knight has
15 ben injured.

16 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
17 **(Violation of Rights of Publicity, California Common Law**
18 **by Plaintiff Knight)**

19 62. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above, as though
20 fully set forth in this cause of action.

21 63. Facebook has utilized and continues to utilize the names, likeness and identity of
22 Knight in the unauthorized Facebook pages without Knight's consent and for Facebook's own
23 commercial advantage.

24 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
25 **(Unlawful and Unfair Business Practices in Violation of California Business & Professions**
26 **Code § 17200 by Both Plaintiffs)**

27 64. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above, as though
28 fully set forth in this cause of action.

1 65. The Unfair Competition Act (UCA), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.*,
2 prohibits any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practice...” Section 17203 provides that
3 “[a]ny person who engages, has engaged or proposes to engage in unfair competition may be
4 enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction.”

5 66. By these actions described herein, Defendant engaged in unfair competition in
6 violation of the statutory law of the state of California, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 and
7 17500, *et seq.* As a result, Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer damage to its
8 business, reputation, and goodwill.

9 67. Defendant has engaged in unlawful and unfair business practices within the
10 meaning of California Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.* by virtue of the misconduct
11 alleged herein. As a result of Defendant’s actions and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered injury-in-
12 fact and has lost money or property.

13 68. Defendant’s unlawful and unfair practices include, but are not limited to:

- 14 a. Breach of Contract;
- 15 b. Negligent Misrepresentation;
- 16 c. Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Relations;
- 17 d. Violation of California Civil Code § 3344;
- 18 e. Violation of the Knight’s Rights of Publicity under California Common
19 Law.

20 69. Defendant’s business practices are unfair because they offend established public
21 policy and/or are immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous and or substantially injurious to
22 Plaintiffs. The justification for Defendant’s conduct is outweighed by the gravity of the
23 consequences to Plaintiff. Defendant can provide no adequate justification for its wrongful
24 conduct.

25 70. Pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Knight seeks equitable and injunctive
26 relief and disgorgement of all ill-gotten gains as set forth herein.

27 //
28

1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief and judgment against Defendant as follows:

3 A. For damages

4 B. For the restitution and disgorgement of monies unjustly retained by Defendant in
5 the amount;

6 C. For punitive damages;

7 D. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief;

8 E. For attorneys' fees and expenses pursuant to all applicable laws;

9 F. For prejudgment interest; and

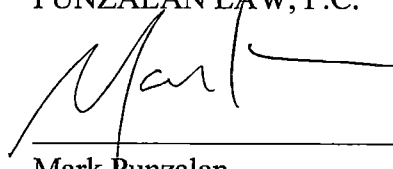
10 G. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

11 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

12 Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial on all claims.

13 Dated: February 16, 2016

PUNZALAN LAW, P.C.

14
15 

16 Mark Punzalan

17 Todd G. Cole (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
18 COLE LAW GROUP, PC

19 Counsel for Plaintiffs Jason Cross, a/k/a Mikel
20 Knight, 1203 Entertainment, LLC, and
21 MDRST Marketing/Promotions, LLC
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT A

Exhibit A
Page 1 of 4

- "This Guy [Knight] Needs to be Took [sic] Out[.]" (June 29, 2015)

 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ This Guy Needs to be Took Out
June 29 at 10:50am

- "Someone needs to give him [Knight] a [sic] old fashion <expletive deleted> whipping." (June 27, 2015)

 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Omg how sad. Someone needs to give him a old
fashion ass whipping.
2 • June 27 at 11:32pm

- "[Y]ou and your crews better stay out of Henderson county Tx dope head[.]" (June 24, 2015)

 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ you and your crews better stay out of
Henderson county Tx dope head
1 • June 24 at 11:40am

- "I live in NC and I'm telling you, if these guys came this way....They would be Done." (June 24, 2015)

 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I live in NC and I'm telling you, if these guys came this way....They
would be Done. I feel bad for the people they haggie and the men who feel

 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

trapped in this "business".
June 24 at 11:35am

(Continued on next page)

- “[T]his guy [Mikel Knight] needs to be shot[.]” (June 23, 2015)

Families Against Mikel Knight and the MDRST shared **[redacted]** post.
June 23 at 3:51pm ·

[redacted] **Families Against Mikel Knight and the MDRST**

Hello my name is [redacted] I am 21 years old from Jefferson City mo, I recently got into a bind with money, and I found a ad on craigslist for a job working in the music bussiness and so I applied. I got the job from a guy by the name of Allen lee, they paid for me to get up there from Allen lee , who told me not to tell anyone about it, so I agreed. When I got to Nashville I had to sleep on the streets before they picked me up, they stuck me into a hotel room for two days before I could start work they had promised to help get a car mikel offered a phone and help to get my own place, I finally got the call to go to work I dove his van yesterday , we started at 12:30 pm yesterday and didn't get in til 12:00 this morning. we are parked at 94th and [redacted] United States

. I started asking questions I asked one kid what it was like he said we get up at 6:30 and sell CDs all day for 18 hours. Then they restock every couple days , he said that they have a quota everyday. I asked what happens if u don't get ur quota he said u should just get it if's better for everyone . Mikel seels weed to them to keep them broke which leaves with nothing. these people are scared.I want to help. I got out of there , this guy is crazy as hell , he traps young vulnerable men he makes them work more if they don't somethan right , which takes away food and showers . In the meanwhile this guy is playing basketball in his huge office with his little buddies he runs this hell with. I'm almost tempted to call the cops and have all these kids arrested for all the marijuana they have. . this guy needs to be shot

Like · Comment · Share

[redacted], **[redacted]**, **[redacted]**, **[redacted]** and 5 others like this.

- “What's your lanky <expletive deleted> gonna do other than get beat up?” (June 22, 2015, in response to a statement made by a MDRST member)

[redacted] **[redacted]** if ur gonna record us have the balls to put our face on camera...
Laughing at u haters
1 · June 22 at 11:09pm

Hide 15 Replies

[redacted] **[redacted]** What's your lanky ass gonna do other than get beat up?
5 · June 22 at 11:56pm

- “Maybe you know the group of boys that came around here in a mdrst van and got their <expletive deleted> kicked then[.]” (June 22, 2015, in response to a comment made by a girlfriend of a MDRST member)

[redacted] **[redacted]** Maybe you know the group of boys that came around here in a mdrst van and got their asses kicked then
June 22 at 7:01pm

- “John cross .Jason cross whatever he's a punk cowboy wanna be.who needs to be put in his place.but he's a scared little <expletive deleted> who won't come out of the bus he has his pic plastered all over it.when they came to neosho mo.a couple of his boy wanted to fight at

Casey's so I obliged them. one of me and ten of them but no mikel night they ran like scared rabbits when the cops came to escort them out of town .come on back y'all and bring mikel with you and koolwhip or donut or whatever your dumb <expletive deleted> names are .this the show me state <expletive deleted> we will be waiting[.]” (June 20, 2015)

John cross Jason cross whatever he's a punk cowboy wanna be. who needs to be put in his place. but he's a scared little bitch who won't come out of the bus he has his pic plastered all over it. when they came to napshe mo. a couple of his boy wanted to fight at Casey's so I obliged them. one of me and ten of them but no mikel night they ran like scared rabbits when the cops came to escort them out of town .come on back y'all and bring mikel with you and koolwhip or donut or whatever your dumb ass names are .this the show me state bitch we will be waiting

18 • June 20 at 7:40pm

- “He [Knight] needs to be kicked in the midsection HARD[.]” (June 20, 2015)

He needs to be kicked in the midsection HARD

4 • June 20 at 6:50pm

- “I hope this man goes to jail soon or that these mom's against him just start looting and burning his trucks down[.]” (June 19, 2015)

I hope this man goes to jail soon or that these mom's against him just start looting and burning his trucks down

June 19 at 10:49am

- “In North West Arkansas we should start a “Woop MK <expletive deleted> Street Team[.]” (June 19, 2015)

In North West Arkansas we should start a “Woop MK Ass Street Team”

3 • June 19 at 11:32am

- “Yea this guy [Knight] is trash. I worked for him I wish I woulda just ran his <expletive deleted> over.” (June 19, 2015)

Yea this guy is trash. I worked for him I wish I woulda just ran his ass over. He hurt or had someone hurt ALOT of my friends. We be best.

2 • June 19 at 8:20am

- “He's [Mikel Knight] just a <expletive deleted> that hides behind his crew. I'd go toe to toe with him any day.” (June 3, 2015)

He's just a pussy that hides behind his crew. I'd go toe to toe with him any day.

2 • June 3 at 5:09pm

- “He [Mikel Knight] threatens the boys and there family's so they are scared. I'd like to meet him and show him how a real man whoops <expletive deleted>[.]” (June 3, 2015)

He threatens the boys and there family's so they are scared. I'd like to meet him and show him how a real man whoops ass

14 • June 3 at 4:28pm

Exhibit A
Page 4 of 4

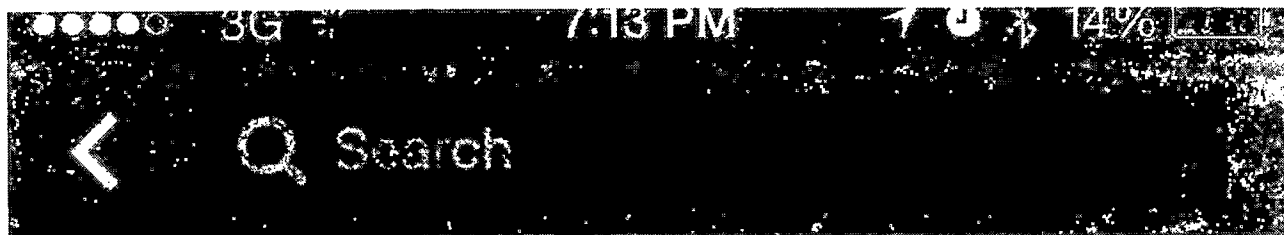
- “We are doing our best to keep up with his vans and keep them ran out of Arkansas!” (June 2, 2015)

 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ We are doing our best to keep up with his vans and keep them ran out of Arkansas!
1 · June 2 at 7:56pm

- “That's what I am thinking y don't someone just give them a good <expletive deleted> kicking[.]” (May 21, 2015)

 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ That's what I am thinking y don't someone just give them a good ass kicking. These guys were in the town were I work today at the truck stop in Cambridge Nebraska I saw them when I was getting fuel cops got rid of them thank god
2 · May 21 at 6:14pm

EXHIBIT B



Brantley Beacon

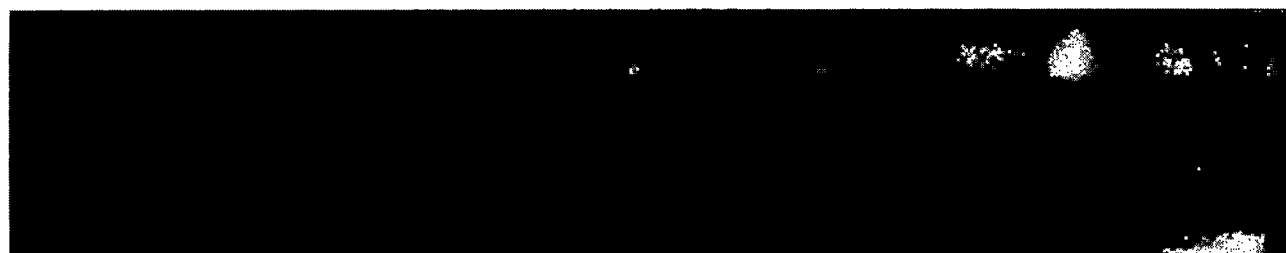
2 hrs · Nahunta, GA ·

ATTENTION:

Brantley County 911 office would like to notify the public that the Facebook warning that is circulating about this van involved in a kidnapping is false.

"We understand everyone is concerned, but we want everyone to know that this is false and there is no need to call 911" stated a spokesperson for Brantley County 911. "

Again, the reports are false about this van, but please call 911 if you have an emergency."



Write a comment...



News Feed



Requests



Messages



Notifications



More

VERIFICATION OF JASON CROSS

I, the undersigned, certify and declare that I have read the foregoing Complaint and know its contents. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true.

Executed on February 9, 2016, at Heritage, Tennessee.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

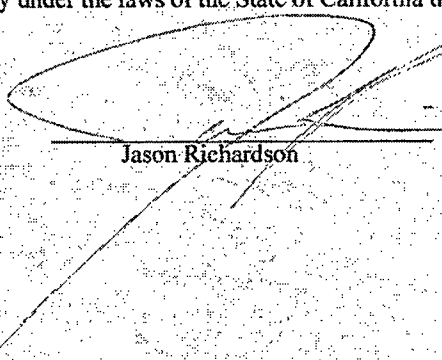

Jason Cross a/k/a Mikel Knight

VERIFICATION OF 1203 ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

I, the undersigned, certify and declare that I have read the foregoing Complaint and know its contents. I am the President of 1203 Entertainment, LLC, a Tennessee limited liability company, am authorized to make this verification for and on its own behalf, and I make this verification for that reason. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true.

Executed on February 9, 2016, at Hermitage, Tennessee.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.



Jason Richardson

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

Executed on February 9, 2016, at Hermitage, Tennessee.

Thomas Hairston