

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

KENT GRAY,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	2022LA000114
)	Case No. _____
)	
TIM BUTLER; DAVE BENDER;)	
MATT BUTCHER; RYAN SPAIN;)	
JAYME SIEMER; FRIENDS OF TIM)	
BUTLER; and HOUSE REPUBLICAN)	
MAJORITY.)	
)	
Defendants.)	

COMPLAINT FOR LIBEL/FALSE LIGHT DEFAMATION

NOW COMES, Plaintiff, KENT GRAY, by and through his attorneys, Kent Gray, Attorney at Law, Chartered, and for his COMPLAINT, Verified under oath, states as follows:

1. Plaintiff, KENT GRAY, is a resident of Sangamon County, Illinois, with his principal residence located at 2116 Illini Road, Leland Grove, Illinois 62704.
2. On information and belief, individual Defendants, TIM BUTLER, MATT BUTCHER, and JAYME SEIMER are residents of Sangamon County, Illinois. Defendant DAVE BENDER is a resident of Logan County, Illinois and RYAN SPAIN, is a resident of Peoria County, Illinois.
3. On information and belief, on or about June 18, 2022, Defendants published a SMS "Text" message to thousands of Republican voters in Sangamon, Christian and Macon Counties in Illinois stating "Kent Gray wants to be a public servant but can't get his own house in order. Whether it is [] behind \$30k in child support..."
4. The statement made by Defendants is false and defamatory.

5. The statements made by Defendants prejudices Plaintiff in his personal life, and his trade, business, or profession.

5. Defendant's defamatory statement referred specifically to Plaintiff.

6. As a proximate result of the foregoing defamatory statements by Plaintiff, Defendant suffered financial injuries, including injuries to his reputation.

7. The foregoing defamatory statements were made by Defendants with the knowledge of their falsity and with actual malice, so as to justify an award of punitive damages.

8. Plaintiff has been placed in a false light before the public as a result of Defendants' aforementioned actions and statements.

9. The false light in which Plaintiff was placed would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.

10. With knowledge that such statements were false, or with reckless disregard for whether the statements were true or false, Defendants acted with actual malice.

11. The transmission of an anonymous SMS "Text" message is a violation of both state and federal law, namely:

a. Sending a SMS "Text" message by automatic means is a violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), and carries a statutory fine of \$500 for each and every instance of violation.

b. Sending a SMS "Text" message without the FCC required disclosure information is an additional violation of the TCPA and FCC Regulations.

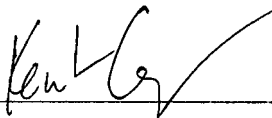
c. Sending a SMS "Text" message is an "electioneering communication" which requires the disclosure of the Committee which "paid for" the political communication.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, KENT GRAY, demands judgment against Defendants, as follows:

1. General damages according to proof;
2. Special damages equal to the \$500 FCC statutory penalty for each unsolicited SMS "text" message sent to cellular telephones, not to exceed Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,500,000);
3. Exemplary damages, including attorney's fees, in an amount which will serve to punish deter Defendants from similar conduct;
4. Costs of this action; and
5. Any other and further relief that the Court considers proper.

Respectfully submitted,

KENT GRAY, Plaintiff

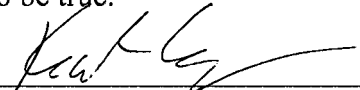
By:  _____

Kent Gray, Attorney at Law, Chartered
P.O. Box 13084
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(217) 836-2262

VERIFICATION

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, KENT GRAY and hereby submits the following
Verification in support of his Complaint:

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in the above Complaint are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.



By: Robert Kent Gray, Jr.