

Press Release

Edgar County Watchdogs, Inc.

JUNE 4, 2021

On June 2, 2021, the Edgar County Watchdogs, Inc, John Kraft and Kirk Allen, and Alyssia Benford filed a lawsuit in Federal Court, Middle District of Florida.

It is unfortunate we had to take this extraordinary step to protect our rights, our business interests, and our good name.

We named the following as Defendants:

- Bonnie Kurowski
- IL Reporter, LLC., a Florida LLC
- Fight For IL, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit
- Erik Phelps

This Complaint is based on Commercial Discrimination, Defamation, Defamation by Implication, Libel, Infliction of Emotional Distress, and Appropriation of Commercial Likeness.

Since the fall of 2020, these Defendants have maligned Plaintiffs by maliciously intending to harm Plaintiffs through their making and publishing of false statements about them, with knowledge of the falsity of the statements or the reckless disregard for the truth. Defendants also falsely claimed Plaintiffs are engaged in criminal conduct or professional misconduct, or were convicted of criminal conduct, or are under indictment for state or federal crimes.

Defendant's conduct was outrageous and willful, demonstrating that entire want of care that raises a conscious indifference to consequences.

Defendants used two Florida entities, Fight For IL, Inc, and IL Reporter, LLC, to defame Plaintiffs, along with numerous websites purchased since Jan 2021 for the same.

Plaintiffs are seeking the following, among others:

- COUNT 1 COMMERCIAL DISCRIMINATION - \$1,000 for each instance where Defendants used the likeness of any of the Plaintiffs, enjoin such unauthorized publication, maximum allowable punitive damages, and attorney fees and costs
- COUNT 2 DEFAMATION BY IMPLICATION – compensatory damages including actual, consequential, incidental damages for malicious tortious concerted conduct, among others, in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.
- COUNT 3 DEFAMATION (LIBEL OR WRITTEN CONTENT DEFAMATION) - compensatory damages including actual, consequential, incidental damages for malicious tortious concerted conduct, among others, in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.
- COUNT 4 INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS - compensatory damages including actual, consequential, incidental damages for malicious tortious concerted conduct, among others, in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.

We look forward to our day in court and will continue doing the job we have chosen to do.

Any questions or comments may be directed to our attorney for this case, Robert T. Hanlon.

Edgar County Watchdogs, Inc.

BOX 124

Paris, Illinois 61944

"Citizens have the right to be informed and we aim to provide that."

"Citizens have a right to open and honest government and we aim to facilitate that."