

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF STEPHENSON

BILL HADLEY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY,  
whose legal name is unknown,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2012 L 24

FILED

6

AUG 07 2012

6

*Donna K. Curran*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
Stephenson County, Illinois

COMPLAINT  
DEFAMATION PER SE ACTUAL MALICE

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, BILL HADLEY, by his attorneys, Cicero, France, Barch & Alexander, P.C., by Andrew T. Smith, and in support of his Complaint against the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, whose legal name is unknown, states as follows:

1. At all times relevant to the Complaint, the Plaintiff, BILL HADLEY, was an adult resident of Stephenson County, Illinois.

2. At all times relevant to the Complaint, upon information and belief, the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, whose legal name is unknown, was an adult resident of Stephenson County, Illinois.

3. At all times relevant to the Complaint, the Plaintiff, BILL HADLEY, was a person of good name, fame and reputation as a longtime resident of Freeport, Illinois and Stephenson County, and was deservedly held in high esteem among his acquaintances and the general public.

FILED

;

AUG 07 2012

6

*Donna K. Curran*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
Stephenson County, Illinois

0002

4. At all times relevant to the Complaint GATEHOUSE MEDIA FREEPORT HOLDINGS, INC. d/b/a THE JOURNAL STANDARD (hereinafter, "Gatehouse"), was a foreign corporation registered and authorized to transact business within the State of Illinois.

5. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Gatehouse was in the business of publishing news articles both in print and on its website at "JournalStandard.com" in Stephenson County, Illinois.

6. At all times relevant, Gatehouse, when publishing news articles on its website, allowed for readers to make comments which were then published by Gatehouse.

7. On or about December 28, 2011, Gatehouse published a news article in print and on its website entitled *"Hadley returns to county politics Candidate stresses fiscal responsibility"*, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference.

8. Subsequent to the initial publication of Exhibit "A", the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, made comments which were published by Gatehouse on its website.

9. The comments by the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, which were published by Gatehouse, contained the following relevant statements:

"Hadley is a Sandusky waiting to be exposed. Check out the view he has of Empire from his front door".

10. The statements by the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, set forth in paragraph 9 were false.

11. The statements by the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, imputed the commission of a crime or crimes to the Plaintiff, BILL HADLEY.

12. The statements by the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, lowered the Plaintiff BILL HADLEY'S reputation in the eyes of others in the community and deterred those individuals from associating with him.

13. The Defendant's, SUBSCRIBER DOE'S a/k/a FUBOY'S, statements directly and proximately caused the Plaintiff, BILL HADLEY, to suffer damages.

14. The statements by the Defendant, SUBSCRIBER DOE a/k/a FUBOY, were made with actual knowledge of their falsity, or in the alternative, with reckless disregard as to whether the statements were true or false.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, BILL HADLEY, respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Find the statements by the Defendant to be defamatory *per se*;
- B. Enter judgment in favor of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) as and for damages;
- C. Enter judgment in favor of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) as and for punitive damages;
- D. Order the Defendant to pay the Plaintiff reasonable costs incurred as a result of having to bring this action; and
- E. For any further relief that this Court deems to be just and equitable.

**Plaintiff Hereby Demands a Trial by Jury**


BILL HADLEY, Plaintiff  
By: Cicero, France, Barch &  
Alexander, P.C., his attorneys

By:   
ANDREW T. SMITH (#6216867)



CERTIFICATE OF ATTORNEY

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 137, I have read the foregoing and that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

  
ANDREW T. SMITH

ATTORNEY ANDREW T. SMITH - (#6216867)  
Cicero, France, Barch & Alexander, P.C.  
6323 East Riverside Blvd.  
Rockford, IL 61114  
(815) 226-7700