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9	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY LEAH REMINI,	OF LOS ANGELES  Case No.:
10	Plaintiff,	) ) COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES ) AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
11	VS.	)
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	DAVID MISCAVIGE; CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, INC.; and RELIGIOUS TECHNOLOGY CENTER, INC.,  Defendants.  CAPTION CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE	1. CIVIL HARASSMENT 2. STALKING CALIFORNIA CODE § 1708.7 3. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS 4. TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP 5. INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH PROSEPECTIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE 6. DEFAMATION AND DEFAMATION PER SE 7. DEFAMATION BY IMPLICATION 8. FALSE LIGHT 9. DECLARATORY JUDGMENT CALIFRONIA CODE CIVIL PROCEDURE § 1060
21	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	

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Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, complaining of the Defendants, DAVID MISCAVIGE; CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, INC.; and RELIGIOUS TECHNOLOGY CENTER, INC.; herein by her attorneys, respectfully sets forth and alleges as follows:

#### <u>I.</u> **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. Beginning in the mid-1960s, the Church of Scientology ("Scientology"), through its founder and leader, L. Ron Hubbard, institutionalized a series of retaliatory activities to be taken against any individual, organization, business, or government that Scientology deems to be an enemy, or Suppressive Person. Reflected in hundreds of published directives -- Office of Special Affairs ("OSA") Network Orders, HCOPL (Hubbard Communication Office Policy Letters), 1 HCOBS's (Hubbard Communications Office Bulletins)<sup>2</sup>, and Executive Directives, these policies mandate "obliteration" of Scientology's enemies and are commonly referred to as Attackers under the banner of what was termed "Fair Game."
- Suppressive Persons are also referred to, among other names, as Attackers, 2. Merchants of Chaos, Merchants of Fear, Antisocial personalities, Anti-Scientologists, Psychotics, Squirrels, Cancer of Society, Criminals, and Bigots. These classifications, laid out by L. Ron Hubbard's directives, justify the destruction of Suppressive Persons. One does not need to be a Scientologist or former Scientologist to be on Scientology's "Enemies List."
- 3. On March 7, 1965, Hubbard issued a Policy Letter on Suppressive Acts, which are "defined as actions or omissions undertaken to knowingly suppress, reduce or impede Scientology or Scientologists."
- 4. Such Suppressive Acts include reporting crimes to law enforcement or government agencies, advocating for victims of Scientology, or "public disavowal of Scientology or Scientologists . . . writing anti-Scientology letters to the press or giving anti-Scientology or anti-Scientologist evidence to the press; [or] testifying as a hostile witness against Scientology in public . . ."
- 5. The Policy Letter continues: "Suppressive Acts are clearly those covert or overt acts knowingly calculated to reduce or destroy the influence or activities of Scientology or prevent case

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hubbard Communications Office, or HCO, is the communications arm of Scientology, responsible for disseminating orders, policies, and other directives throughout Scientology.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> HCOBs dictate how to think about and handle anyone who speaks negatively of Scientology.

gains or continued Scientology success and activity on the part of a Scientologist. As persons or groups that would do such a thing act out of self interest only to the detriment of all others, they cannot be granted the rights and beingness ordinarily accorded rational beings and so place themselves beyond any consideration for their feelings or well being."

- 6. On December 2, 1966, L. Ron Hubbard issued an Executive Directive stating: "(a) People who attack Scientology are criminals, (b) That if one attacks Scientology he gets investigated for crimes, and (c) If one does not attack Scientology, despite not being with it, one is safe."
- 7. On March 28, 1972, Hubbard wrote a paper titled Counter Attack Tactics, principled upon the idea that "when PR and Legal find themselves engaged in handling attacks, Intelligence has failed." Counter Attack Tactics laid out the "Plan," referred to as Three Channel Handling, to attack those who speak out against Scientology's abuses and advocate for themselves and others. The Plan requires identifying the "instigator" and then, using three different channels or tactics, "[w]hen identified or even suspected as the instigator, draw up a project to cost him his job," "[d]raw up a second project at once to survey and discover what the person really is defending and threaten it effectively," "[e]xecute the projects rapidly," "[o]n achieving success inform PR so that PR can call off the PR counterattack and capitalize on any information gained if it does not expose Intelligence," and "[i]nform legal so Legal can replan and utilize the information also gained to mop up." These tactics are to be implemented by the Office of Special Affairs, or OSA, previously Scientology's Guardian's Office (or "GO").<sup>3</sup>
- 8. On January 10, 1991, HCO issued a Revised Policy Letter reinforcing that publicly departing Scientology is a High Crime—the highest offense against Scientology. Anyone who publicly leaves Scientology is automatically declared a Suppressive Person.
- 9. Actions against Suppressive Persons are primarily carried out by members of the Sea Organization (commonly referred to as "The Sea Org") who belong to OSA, which handles Scientology's internal security and outside legal affairs and serves as Scientology's intelligence and spying operation. The Sea Org serves as Scientology "clergy" and runs all Scientology

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Guardian's Office was established in 1966, and its initial mission was to protect the interests of Scientology, monitor Scientologists, and gather information on individuals and organizations deemed enemies of Scientology. The Guardian's Office was disbanded in 1983, and the bulk of its previous functions were then assigned to OSA. OSA is also referred to as Department 20 or Scientology's Organization Board

organizations. The Sea Org offers a specialized college-type course<sup>4</sup> to become a "fully hatted" "Invest Officer" for OSA, or a Department of Special Affairs Investigator commissioned to address and neutralize disclosure of Scientology's conduct.

- 10. The Sea Org also maintains and controls a sophisticated internal ethics and justice system that governs every Scientology member. Through its operatives and agents, OSA draws up Counter Attack Tactics handlings and tracks, monitors, and directs retaliation campaigns and ruinous litigation against whistleblowers, survivors of Scientology, and anyone else who exposes Scientology's unlawful activities. In essence, it is the department tasked with executing operations against Suppressive Persons or attackers at the direction of Defendant Miscavige, who has commanded Scientology since L. Ron Hubbard's death.<sup>5</sup>
- These policies and directives are not only carried out by the Sea Org (under the direction of David Miscavige), but OSA also activates civilian (non-staff) Scientologists and non-Scientologists allied with Scientology to carry out the operations launched by OSA. Scientology has hundreds of policies and directives, called (among other things) "Public Image," "Safe Pointing,", and "Special Zone Plan," that relate to infiltration of law enforcement and government agencies through their front groups and social betterment programs to deter investigation of Scientology.<sup>6</sup>
- 12. The Suppressive Person/Fair Game doctrine and OSA Network Orders are laid out in internal Scientology directives that describe the actions to be taken to destroy its perceived enemies. When one is deemed a Suppressive Person, that person is then Fair Game, as per L. Ron

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The training course, "Department of Special Affairs Investigations Officer Full Hat Check Sheet," last four weeks, five days each week from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and consists of reading, writing and demonstrations to prove complete understanding of the directives taught.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dec. of Mike Rinder, executed in Pinellas County, FL, Dec. 3, 2013. Rinder, a high-ranking Scientologist from the age of six and until June 2007, served for an extended period as head of the Office of Special Affairs ("OSA"). In this role, he provided David Miscavige with daily reports on every legal case, media action, and investigation happening worldwide and created "Invest Reports" for Miscavige, which included summaries of ongoing activities of private investigators and intelligence operations working against Scientology "attackers." Scientology policy requires members to determine to combat attackers by finding out "what the person is seeking to protect and threaten[] that," including family, and "create scenarios that will cost someone their job by manufacturing false evidence against them." After Rinder escaped Scientology in 2007, he was subjected to these attacks himself, including via an extensive campaign of intimidation, spying, stalking and harassment that continues today.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> HCO Bulletin, 23 June 1960, "The Special Zone Plan": "A nation or a state runs on the ability of its department heads, its governors or any other leaders. It is easy to get posts in such areas unless one has delusions of grandeur or fear of it. Don't bother to get elected. Get a job on the secretarial staff or the bodyguard, use any talent one has to get a place close in . . .."

Hubbard's directives and the directives of Scientology that Suppressive Persons "[m]ay be deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist without any discipline of the Scientologist" and may be "tricked, sued or lied to or destroyed."

- 13. The letters and orders that comprise the handling of Suppressive Persons and Fair Game lay out the rules of engagement for OSA operatives, all Scientologists, and their allies, that must be followed with precision until the "Attacker" is put out of commission by Scientology's operation.
- 14. One order, entitled "Target, Defense," provides: "One cuts off enemy communications, funds, connections. He deprives the enemy of political advantages, connections and power. He takes over enemy territory. He raids and harasses. All on a thought plane press, public opinion, governments, etc."
- 15. Another directive entitled "Battle Tactics" directs: "The prize is 'public opinion' where press is concerned. The only safe public opinion to head for is they love us and are in a frenzy of hate against the enemy. This means standard wartime propaganda is what one is doing, complete with atrocity, war crimes trials, the lot. . . . Don't give the enemy breathing space."
- 16. The ultimate purpose of the handling of Suppressive Persons or attackers is to "totally restrain[] and muzzle[]," obliterate," and "ruin utterly" any individual they deem an enemy. Scientology directs followers to "Spot who is attacking us. . . . Start feeding lurid, blood, sex, crime actual evidence on the attackers to the press. <u>Don't ever</u> tamely submit to an investigation of us. Make it rough, rough on attackers all the way." 13

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> October 18, 1967 Scientology HCO Policy Letter issued by L. Ron Hubbard (emphasis added). This Policy is still in full force and effect today.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Feb. 16, 1969 HCO PL entitled "Target, Defense."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Feb. 16, 1969 HCO PL, "Battle Tactics," reissued with updated distribution Sept. 24, 1987.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> March 28, 1972, Counter Attack Tactics.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Feb. 16, 1969 Hubbard Commc'ns Office Policy Letter ("HCO PL") from L. Rob Hubbard, regarding Battle Tactics.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> L. Ron Hubbard, *A Manual on the Dissemination of Material*, The Magazine of Dianetics and Scientology, March 1955 at 157.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Feb. 25, 1966 HCO PL, "Attacks on Scientology"

17. Suppressive Person Policies have been and remain the policy and practice of Scientology, even to this day.<sup>14</sup> Indeed, Defendants' use of Fair Game has been acknowledged by courts in California for many years.<sup>15</sup>

- 18. One Los Angeles Superior Court judge observed that: "In addition to violating and abusing its own members' civil rights, the organization over the years with its 'Fair Game' doctrine has harassed and abused those persons not in the Church [of Scientology] whom it perceives as enemies."
  - 19. Another opinion summarized a sample of Scientology's recent Fair Game tactics:

    [P]laintiffs allege Scientology's agents committed the following acts against them: surveilled them, hacked their security systems, filmed them, chased them, hacked their email, killed (and attempted to kill) their pets, tapped their phones, incited others to harass them, threatened to kill them, broke their locks, broke into their cars, ran them off the road, posted fake ads purporting to be from them soliciting anal sex from strangers, broke their windows, set the outside of their home on fire, went through their trash, and poisoned trees in their yards. This conduct was alleged to be pursuant to Scientology's policies and procedures. According to plaintiffs' complaint, Scientology's directives are that Suppressive Persons are to be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Scientology claims to have discontinued this practice, but it demonstrably remains in full force and effect. Specifically, an October 21, 1968 Policy Letter from L. Ron Hubbard reads: "The practice of **declaring** people FAIR GAME will cease. FAIR GAME may not appear on any Ethics Order. It causes bad public relations. This P/L **does not cancel any policy on the treatment or handling of an SP** ("suppressive person")." (Emphasis added.) In reality, the only policy "ceased" was the writing of the words "Fair Game" on a "suppressive person order," also known as a "Declare." The activities of Fair Game and Scientology's policies directing the tactics to deal with suppressive persons have remained the same.

These cases include *Church of Scientology v. Wollersheim*, (1996) 42 Cal. App 4th 628, 641 ("Declarations of former members and officials of the Church...revealed the practices and policies of the Church, including its 'fair game' doctrine and employment of litigation practices designed to 'bludgeon the opposition into submission.'"); *Hart v. Cult Awareness Network*, (1993) 13 Cal.App. 4th 777, 784 ("According to church literature, a suppressive person or group becomes 'fair game,' and a person or group which is fair game 'May be deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist without discipline of the Scientologist...[m]ay be tricked, sued, or lied to or destroyed."); *Church of Scientology v. Armstrong, (1991)* 232 Cal.App.3d 1060, 1067 ("These 'declares' subjected Armstrong to the 'Fair Game Doctrine' of the Church, which permits a suppressive person to be 'tricked, sued or lied to or destroyed...[or] deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist..."); *Wollersheim v. Church of Scientology,* (1989) 212 Cal.App 3d.872, 882 ("Wollersheim's bankruptcy and resulting mental distress was the direct result of the Church's declaration that he was fair game."); *Allard v. Church of Scientology,* (1976) 58 Cal.App.3d 439, 447, n.4 ("The trial court gave appellant almost the entire trial within which to produce evidence that the fair game policy had been repealed. Appellant failed to do so."); *id.* at 448 ("Inferences can be drawn that the church, through its agents, was carrying out its own policy of fair game in its actions against respondent.").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Church of Scientology v. Armstrong, No. 420153, Memorandum of Intended Decision, Los Angeles Superior Court, June 20, 1984 (Breckenridge, J.)

silenced by whatever means necessary. Scientology instructs members 'to damage the person's professional reputation, file frivolous lawsuits, and harass and surveil 'the enemy.' Scientology's 'policies and procedures encourage and/or instruct followers to 'ruin [the individual] utterly.' 17

- 20. In the past 70 years, Scientology, via Defendants, has conducted countless sophisticated, well-funded and brutal operations against Suppressive Persons that have spanned every decade and many countries. Scientology also has undertaken smaller but still devastating operations against anyone or any group that it has labeled Suppressive or Fair Game.<sup>18</sup>
- 21. Here, Defendants have undertaken a campaign to ruin and destroy the life and livelihood of Leah Remini—a former Scientologist of nearly 40 years, a two-time Emmy-award winning producer, actress and New York Times best-selling author—after she was deemed a Suppressive Person and declared Fair Game by Scientology in 2013, when she publicly departed Scientology, a Suppressive Act as laid out by Scientology directives.
- 22. For the past ten years, Ms. Remini has been stalked, surveilled, harassed, threatened, intimidated, and, moreover, has been the victim of intentional malicious and fraudulent rumors via hundreds of Scientology-controlled and -coordinated social media accounts that exist solely to intimidate and spread misinformation. Scientology has elevated the reach of some of these posts by using its tax-exempt funds to pay social media companies like Twitter to "promote" these posts. By paying to promote these posts and elevate them on Twitter, Defendants demonstrate that these posts are not the work of a rogue Scientologist, but part of a coordinated campaign to follow long held policy and destroy Ms. Remini. Defendants have also incessantly harassed, threatened, intimidated, and embarrassed Ms. Remini's family members, friends, colleagues, and business associates, causing her to lose personal relationships, business contracts, and other business opportunities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Bixler v. Sup. Ct. for Cal., 2022 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 302 (Jan. 19, 2022) (cited for references to factual allegations only and not court holding.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> In 1991, Time Magazine published a major investigation by reporter Richard Behar into Scientology entitled "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power." The cover story devastated Scientology's public reputation and led David Miscavige to go to war against Time Magazine and Behar personally. For years, Behar was trailed and harassed by Scientology's private investigators. In addition, Scientology illegally obtained copies of his phone records and credit reports. Scientology also spent millions of dollars trying to defame Behar's reputation and that of Time Magazine.

- 23. Defendants have caused Ms. Remini significant and ongoing economic harm and have forced her to endure a new but never-normal life in which Scientology's surveillance, abuse, and lies are the punishing, inescapable, daily cost of exercising her First Amendment right and moral duty to speak out about Scientology's conduct. Scientology's policies regarding Suppressive Persons and Fair Game are not religious doctrine; they are old-school, mob-style tactics, modernized, amplified, and weaponized by Scientology's far-reaching network, which goes beyond just social media.
- 24. Despite spending nearly ten years of her life under constant threat and assault by Defendants as a result of her public departure from Scientology, Ms. Remini has worked tirelessly to advocate for current Scientologists, former members of Scientology, and non-Scientologists who have bravely spoken out against Scientology or supported Scientology survivors and whistleblowers.
- 25. Ms. Remini brings this action to recover compensatory and punitive damages for the enormous economic and psychological harm that Defendants have inflicted upon her, to remediate the harm that has been caused, and to punish and deter Defendants from continuing their unlawful campaign of harassment and intimidation. Most importantly, she seeks injunctive relief to end Scientology's policies against Suppressive Persons so that current and former Scientologists, and others who wish to expose Scientology's abuses, including journalists and advocates, may feel free to hold Scientology accountable without the fear that they will be threatened into silence. This lawsuit does not challenge Scientology's ability to defend itself through legal means.

## II. THE PARTIES

- 26. Plaintiff, Leah Remini, is a resident of the state of California.
- 27. Defendant Church of Scientology International ("CSI") is a California corporation, which at all material times, was doing business in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. CSI's primary place of business and headquarters is located at 6331 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, California 90028. CSI is controlled and directed by Defendant Miscavige, directly and through officers and others who report to him. CSI is the licensee of Scientology's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Leah Remini does not assert, and expressly disclaims, any claims relating to Scientology's conduct while she was a member, which Scientology maintains are subject to arbitration pursuant to the enrollment agreements with Scientology's members.

intellectual property ("IP"), including trademarks and other IP owned and administered by Defendant Religious Technology Center, Inc. CSI in turn licenses Scientology's IP to numerous other Scientology-affiliated entities and organizations, which pay CSI licensing fees that it passes through to the owners of the IP, including Religious Technology Center, Inc.

- 28. Defendant Religious Technology Center, Inc. ("RTC") is a California Corporation, which at all material times, was doing business in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. RTC's primary place of business and headquarters is located at 1710 Ivar Avenue, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, California 90028. RTC is the principal management, security, and enforcement entity for Scientology. Pursuant to an assignment agreement with Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, RTC owns, administers and enforces certain IP rights, including Scientology's trademarks and rights in its so-called "advanced tech," and it receives licensing fees paid for the use of those rights, including their use in Scientology courses and course materials. Operating under Defendant Miscavige's direction, senior RTC officers oversee and direct the management of each of the other Defendants listed herein. RTC and Miscavige also oversee and direct Defendants' investigative and policing operations, monitor members' behavior, and handle matters concerning discipline and punishment of members throughout all Scientology-affiliated entities, groups, and organizations.
- 29. Defendant, David Miscavige ("Miscavige"), is and at all material times was, a resident of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Miscavige is believed to reside at 6331 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, California 90028 and his principal place of business is located at 1710 Ivar Avenue, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, California 90028. Mr. Miscavige is the "Chairman of the Board" ("COB") of the RTC and the *de facto* leader in all aspects of the other named Defendants, controlling and directing the activities of all Defendant entities herein. Among other things, Mr. Miscavige personally directs, and during the times relevant to this Complaint, did direct the management and operations of the other Defendants, including the practices and conduct alleged herein.

### III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- **30.** This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10. Plaintiff seeks damages under the statutory and common law of the State of California for Defendants' wrongful actions.
- 31. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 395 because (a) some of the acts and transactions described herein occurred within this county; (b) Defendants are or were registered to do business in the State of California and/or were doing

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business within this county; (c) Defendants did do business in this county and Defendants' principal places of business are located in Los Angeles, County; and (d) Defendant Miscavige is an individual residing in this county.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

### A. **Scientology Background**

- "Scientology" was created by L. Ron Hubbard in 1952 following the publication of 32. "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health." Its practices are mandated by the writings, thoughts, and teachings of Mr. Hubbard. These teachings are referred to as policies, "The Tech" (Technology), and "Source."
- 33. The words and teachings of L. Ron Hubbard are the law of Scientology and the law for Scientologists. The policies of L. Ron Hubbard cannot be changed, modified, or interpreted. In fact, it is a High Crime in Scientology to disobey the exact words and teachings of L. Ron Hubbard, no matter how antiquated, abhorrent, and illegal they may be.<sup>20</sup>
- 34. Scientology's authority with respect to its members is absolute, precluding even a role by law enforcement. Defendants strictly forbid members from contacting the police to report any crimes committed by any practicing Scientologists, no matter how violent or heinous the crime (except when directed by Scientology as part of operations against Suppressive Persons).<sup>21</sup> Scientology trains its members how to lie to law enforcement. Scientologists are also forbidden from cooperating with law enforcement against another Scientologist and testifying against other Scientologists in court. Defendants also forbid Scientologists from seeking remedies in civil court against other Scientologists. 22
- 35. The Church of Scientology is organized and operates through a global network of corporations, trusts, and unincorporated associations and organizations. Scientology's management is fully top-down, with all principal entities and organizations controlled and managed under the direction of Defendant Miscavige, whose authority is second only to deceased L. Ron Hubbard.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> See October 18, 1967 Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter (HCOPL) on "High Crimes," the pertinent parts provide: "Recently, during the reorganization of WW, it came to light...that certain [policy letters] and HCOBs were not to be followed...Any executive issuing such an order shall hereafter be considered as committing a high crime...'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> See e.g., May 22, 1961 Policy Letter entitled "The Only Valid Security Check", which provides in relevant part: "[W]e can promise you faithfully that no part of nor any answer you make here will be given to the police or state. No scientologist will ever bear witness against you in Court[.]" <sup>22</sup> *Id*.

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36. Defendant Miscavige took control of Scientology in 1986 after L. Ron Hubbard's death. Defendant Miscavige operates, manages, and/or controls RTC, CSI and the entire network of Scientology organizations that fall beneath RTC and CSI. Defendant Miscavige is responsible for ensuring the standards, policies, and ethics of Scientology, including those related to Suppressive Persons and attackers of Scientology, are carried out. 37.

- Defendant Miscavige receives daily reports on and directs the operations of each Scientology-affiliated entity and organization through "command channels," with built-in redundancies to ensure he receives complete and timely information about all aspects of Defendants' operations, including that his directives are fully carried out without variance. He issues directives to every Scientology-controlled entity and every Scientologist, and also receives reports from OSA on its operations against Suppressive Persons.
- 38. While every person who becomes an enemy of Scientology is "fair game" and faces attacks from Scientology's OSA and RTC, Leah Remini is at the very top of Defendant Miscavige's list of Scientology's enemies.

### В. **Suppressive Persons or Attackers of Scientology**

- 39. Scientology deems an individual a Suppressive Person if they "actively seek[] to suppress or damage Scientology or a Scientologist by Suppressive Acts.<sup>23</sup>
- Suppressive Acts are "acts calculated to impede or destroy Scientology or a 40. Scientologist[.]" Applicable to this case, examples of Suppressive Acts include, "[p]ublic disavowal of Scientology or Scientologists in good standing with Scientology organizations" and "[p]ublic statements against Scientology."<sup>24</sup>
- 41. Additional relevant Suppressive Acts include, "[b]ringing civil suit against any Scientology organization or Scientologist, <sup>25</sup> performing welfare checks on family members of those who departed Scientology, or reporting crimes by Scientology members to civil authorities.
  - 42. An individual engaged in any of these behaviors is deemed a Suppressive Person.
- 43. Once declared a Suppressive Person, the Suppressive Person is known as "Fair Game" and "has no rights of any kind" and must be silenced by whatever means necessary. 26, 27

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> See Dec. 23, 1965 HCOPL on Suppressive Acts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> January 30, 1993 HCOPL on "Suppressive Acts, Suppression of Scientology and Scientologists."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> See July 21, 1968 Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter (HCOPL) on "Penalties for Lower Conditions," which provides in pertinent part: "Enemy - Suppressive Person Order. May be restrained or imprisoned. May not be protected by any rules of the group he sought to injure as he sought to bar fair practices for others."

27 Dec. of Vicki Aznaran, United States of America v. Steven Fishman, Case No. CR-88-0616-DLJ, NDCA, July 18,

- 44. From the time it was founded in 1953 to the present day, Scientology has inflicted terror on people and organizations it deems to be its enemies pursuant to its policies and directives.
- 45. OSA Operations consist of hundreds of directives written by L. Ron Hubbard. These directives are considered law for all Scientologists and supersede the laws of any country or state that a Scientologist lives in. Scientology believes their laws and Justice Codes are superior to real law and refer to the laws as "wog law." "Wog" is a derogatory term Scientology uses to categorize a person who is not a Scientologist or any institution that is not under the full control of Scientology.
- 46. One Scientology policy directs: "Don't react to Scientology justice as though it were wog law. In society's 'courts' one is given the works, and truth has little bearing on the findings. A mean judge or clever attorney and small legal errors decide a lot of their cases. Wog courts are like throwing dice. There is huge cost and publicity and punishment galore even for the innocent. So we must preserve our justice."
- 47. The goal of OSA is to handle attackers or Suppressive Persons. The policies OSA implements aim to harass, scare, silence or "ruin utterly" anyone who is considered a Suppressive Person to Scientology. The goal of the Department is a silenced or muzzled Attacker.
- 48. Scientology's directives, laid out as Counter Attack Tactics, teach the methods to use against individuals who are deemed Suppressive or Fair Game: "These persons can always lose their jobs. . . [T]his is a point of vulnerability. If the person's job is . . . not valuable to him or if he cannot be made to cost his job, something can be found which he is seeking to protect and it can be threatened. . . . Find out what the person considers valuable and use it for restraint." To this end, OSA Operations targets their objects' family, career, reputation, and personal security.
- 49. Suppressive Persons are "Critics" of Scientology and OSA Network Orders are carried out by Scientology employees, civilian Scientologists, and agents hired by Scientology. This creates a far-reaching network dedicated to the destruction of Scientology's targets.
- 50. Scientology keeps close track of the assets, skills, and networks of civilian Scientologists and agents associated with Scientology and its front groups so that it may deploy

<sup>1990.</sup> Ms. Aznaran served as President of Religious Technology Center ("RTC") and, between 1984 and 1987, Inspector General. In these roles, she oversaw the Scientology policy of Fair Game as it was levied against Suppressive Persons. She testified that Fair Game against enemies was commonplace, and included "burglaries, assaults, disruption of enemies' businesses, spying, harassive investigations, abuse of confidential communications in parishioner filed and so on." Anzaran provided "It is the stated policy and practice of Scientology to use the legal system to abuse and harass its enemies."

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them in operations against Suppressive Persons or Attackers. For example, a civilian Scientologist or one associated with a Scientologist or its front groups who has a cybersecurity company may be activated by Scientology for an operation to gain information to which Defendants would not normally have access.

- 51. Indeed, historically, Defendants hire lawyers who have then hired private investigators (who may hire other private investigators) to surveil, follow, videotape and photograph individuals who have been deemed Suppressive Persons. But Defendants do not limit their hiring practices to licensed private investigators.<sup>28</sup>
- 52. Based upon information and belief, operations against Suppressive Persons or Attackers are paid for through Scientology's tax-exempt funds and under the false cloak of religion. Between the financial resources of Scientology and the hyper-dedication and direction of Scientologists, targets of these tactics cannot hope for a fair fight—or even to fight back at all.
- 53. Once a target is declared Suppressive and Fair Game, the target remains a focus of Scientology until the goal is reached: "a silenced or muzzled attacker." Until the target (whistleblower, advocate, survivor, reporter, etc.) has lost the ability to speak out, Scientology continues its pursuit.
- 54. Even death may not spare a target from these attacks. For example, though David Miscavige's father, Ron Miscavige, died in 2021, Scientology continues to maintain hundreds of websites dedicated to smearing him.
- 55. When an individual is declared a Suppressive Person by Defendant Miscavige according to Scientology's directives, that individual is cut off from all contact with family members, friends, and employers within Scientology because any Scientologist who maintains contact with a Suppressive Person is also deemed guilty of a Scientology High Crime and subject to punishment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2828</sup> Hubbard Commc'ns Office Manual of Justice (1959), provides, in relevant part:

<sup>&</sup>quot;Overt investigation of someone or something attacking us by an outside detective agency should be done more often...It's very effective! Often investigation by a private detective has alone closed up an entheta [anything upsetting to a Scientologist] source or a squirrel organization. In fact at this writing I can't remember a time when it hasn't!";

<sup>&</sup>quot;When we need somebody haunted we investigate.";

<sup>&</sup>quot;When we investigate we do so noisily always. And usually mere investigation damps out the trouble even when we discover no really pertinent facts.";

<sup>&</sup>quot;It's almost funny. We sometimes learn nothing useful and yet because people heard we were investigating their consciences sent them into headlong flight or sudden collapse. There's power in the question alone!"

56. Publicly declaring that a member has left Scientology is not the only offense subject to attacks. Scientology treats asking for a welfare check on a family member who is a member of Scientology; questioning, speaking about, or posting Scientology beliefs; filing a lawsuit against or reporting a Scientologist; or even reading books or watching documentaries that inform the public of Scientology beliefs and abusive practices as violations of Scientology policies. Former members of Scientology can be labeled Suppressive Persons and subject to harassment, stalking and other attacks for these activities.

- 57. The abuse leveled at Ms. Remini is part of a broader policy and practice of intimidation. Other subjects of Defendants' Suppressive Person policies have included the United States Government, including the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Attorneys,<sup>29</sup> elected officials, the American Medical Association, the National Institute of Mental Health, Pulitzer Prize winning reporters, stand-up comedians, cartoonists, university professors, district attorneys, judges, other law enforcement, social media users with as few as ten followers, and a mother in Clearwater, Florida who was concerned about her son's welfare, to name just a few.
- 58. Though carried out as doctrine, the application of Scientology's practices, certainly as to those who, like Ms. Remini, have renounced membership, are contrary to law and subject to review by courts. The banner of religious freedom does not, and could not, give Defendants license to intimidate, harass, and abuse those who have exercised their choice *not* to associate with Scientology. Religious freedom also does not allow Defendants the right to intimidate and attack former Scientologists who act as whistleblowers to expose Scientology's wrongful conduct towards them or others. Nor does it allow Defendants to apply their laws to do the same to those who were never members.
- 59. In addition to systematic and coordinated campaigns of harassment, including, but not limited to, stalking and invasion of privacy, Defendants direct the creation of defamatory websites and social media accounts to spread lies and misinformation about those who unmask Scientology or tell their own stories of their own experiences as members. These websites accuse

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> The United States Department of Justice recognized that Scientology uses Fair Game to "carte blanche . . . violate the rights of others, frame critics in order to destroy them, burglarize private and public offices and steal documents [,] . . . launch[] vicious smear campaigns, [and] spread[] falsehoods against those they perceived to be enemies of Scientology in order to discredit them and, in some instances, cause them to lose their employment." *US v. Kember, Budlong*, Sentencing Memorandum, Criminal No. 78-401(2) &(3) (D.D.C. Dec. 16, 1980) at http://suppressiveperson.org/spdl/wp-content/uploads/1980/12/USA-v-Kember-Budlong-Sentencing-Memo-1980-12-16.pdf

these whistleblowers of lying about their own experiences in Scientology, or in the case of non-Scientologists, lying about Scientology, and publish a litany of defamatory assertions about them.

- 60. Defendants have escalated their retaliation tactics in order to damage their targets' reputations, as demanded by Scientology policies on Suppressive Persons and Fair Game. Agents of Defendants picket targets' places of employment, residences, and neighborhoods with posters falsely accusing them of crimes, such as child molestation, with the purpose of humiliating their targets and destroying their reputations and job prospects. Defendants' agents have confronted targets outside their homes, workplaces, and in airports, falsely accusing them of wrongdoing. This harassment aims to create fear in those employing or associating with Scientology's "enemies."
- 61. The tactics used to silence and punish anyone deemed to be an enemy by Scientology are well-known within Scientology. Because of these tactics, Scientologists are not apt to report crimes while they are still members of Scientology. Sea Org members have gone to even more drastic measures, including drinking bleach and other methods of suicide, rather than subject themselves to OSA operations as Suppressive Persons. Others who escape are forced to go into hiding, avoiding any communication with law enforcement, the press, or any former members of Scientology to avoid being attacked as Fair Game.
- 62. Scientology's strictly followed policies on attack of Suppressive Persons were first carried out under the command of L. Ron Hubbard and the Guardian's Office. After Hubbard's death in 1986, David Miscavige and OSA and RTC continued strict implementation of these abusive policies.
- 63. These directives lay out the game plan and are carried out with precision by Scientology employees, civilian Scientologists, and non-Scientologists who agree to participate in the destruction of Scientology's target.
- 64. The policies of Scientology were written by L. Ron Hubbard, who is the only source for Scientology's teachings and laws. Because Scientology relies solely on the writings and directives of Scientology (for nearly every single matter in life), the actions of Scientology and Scientologists are consistent as demanded and evidenced by the policies and directives and by their subsequent activities that follow those policies and directives.
- 65. The only person who can change Hubbard's policies is L. Ron Hubbard. As a result, none of the laws that govern Scientology and Scientologists can ever be changed. If they were, it would lead to a crisis of confidence within Scientology because Scientologists believe that

Hubbard is infallible, and his policies and teachings are perfect. As a result, Suppressive Person policies and Fair Game policies will never stop because Scientology's policies cannot be changed. It is up to outsiders, especially our legal system, to impose this change before more lives are destroyed by these policies and the leaders behind them.

### C. Leah Remini

# Ms. Remini's Indoctrination into Scientology

- 66. While this lawsuit concerns what happened after Ms. Remini left Scientology, her experience in Scientology helps to explain why Scientology has been so determined to silence her and others.
- 67. Beginning at age eight, Ms. Remini effectively lost her mother as a parent when her mother joined Scientology. Ms. Remini's mother often left her two daughters alone so that she could devote herself to Scientology. At the age of 13, Ms. Remini and her sister were made to leave the only home they ever knew and were forced to join the Sea Org by their mother. As part of joining, they were forced to sign billion-year contracts. Ms. Remini was deprived of a formal education or a normal childhood and made to perform manual labor and spend hours learning the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard. She was taught as a child to believe that her personal sacrifice would save the planet. Years of brainwashing and conditioning put Ms. Remini in a position where Scientology was the only reality for her. As with most Scientologists, Scientology was Ms. Remini's primary caretaker. She was a member of Scientology for over 35 years.
- 68. During the period of time when Ms. Remini was a Scientologist, she was forced to pay for and undergo thousands of hours of Scientology training, at substantial cost to her, to move up what is known as Scientology's Bridge to Total Freedom. These training sessions took many forms of conditioning and abuse which involved verbally, physically, and sexually abusive practices. One training technique known as "bull baiting" placed her, a young girl, with an older male Scientologist who is required to find her "buttons" (vulnerabilities that would bother her), screamed expletives at her, made sexually suggestive remarks to her, and verbally abused her for hours in an effort to condition her to not react to abuse. These training routines ("TRs") which are required for all Scientologists, are part of the procedures to condition Scientologists to accept abuse and inflict abuse without hesitation. These TRs rob minor children of their natural protective instincts and open them up to sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

- 69. Ms. Remini estimates that she spent over \$5 million over the course of her time as a Scientologist. These funds were spent on her so-called spiritual enlightenment and those of her family members and friends. Approximately half of her funding was for services that she purchased, as from any other business. Ms. Remini's donations also included giving to the International Association of Scientologists ("IAS"), for which there is no exchange of Scientology services. The IAS is known as David Miscavige's war chest. Scientologists are required to pre-pay for their services and after Ms. Remini was declared a Suppressive Person, she was unable to obtain repayment of monies she had in her and her family's Scientology accounts.
- 70. While Ms. Remini was a Scientologist, giving millions of dollars to Scientology, serving as a public face for Scientology, recruiting people individually to join Scientology, helping to move Scientologists on their bridge, and donating to outside groups at the behest of Scientology, she frequently was held up as an example of a model Scientologist and praised repeatedly for her contributions. She was awarded commendations by David Miscavige, Tom Cruise, and by the very people who later attacked her in Scientology-produced videos, despite repeatedly having been asked to appear in Scientology videos herself. As soon as she left and spoke out against Scientology, she was labeled by the organization she supported financially as an untrustworthy apostate, as has been the case for staff members, Sea Org members and other Scientologists who have left Scientology or and who have spoken out, and for non-Scientologists who have made a joke about Scientology, reported crimes against, or advocated for victims of Scientology.
- 71. Scientology's campaign to destroy Ms. Remini began in 2006, seven years before she publicly left Scientology in the summer of 2013. This background is described solely to provide context for Scientology's attacks on Ms. Remini after she publicly left Scientology.
- 72. In 2006, Ms. Remini and her husband attended the wedding of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes in Italy. Cruise, David Miscavige's best friend, is essentially second in command in Scientology. It is a High Crime in Scientology to criticize him in any way. In 2004, David Miscavige told an audience of Scientologists at a gala in England that Cruise was "the most dedicated Scientologist I know."
- 73. The Cruise-Holmes wedding was billed within Scientology as "The Wedding of the Century." Because of Mr. Cruise's status within Scientology and how important this event was, Ms. Remini was shocked to discover that David Miscavige's wife, Michele ("Shelly") Miscavige,

was nowhere to be found. Shelly Miscavige held the title of "Assistant to Chairman of the Board (COB)" and her job was to constantly record everything he said so that a team of secretaries could later transcribe his words and orders for dissemination throughout Scientology.

- 74. When Ms. Remini asked a group of Scientology executives and Tom Cruise's personal handlers, Tom Davis, Jessica Fescback, and Javier Ruiz, "Where is Shelly?," she was immediately admonished by the group, despite the fact that she and Ms. Miscavige were good friends.
- 75. Ms. Remini witnessed other behavior at the wedding that set off red flags for her, including unethical contacts between various Scientology executives and others at the wedding which she understood to be forbidden by Scientology teachings.
- 76. While in Italy, Ms. Remini called her Scientology assistant, Melinda Brownstone, and asked her to type up a series of internal reports that Remini was taught to write, known as Knowledge Reports ("KRs"), sharing her concerns about the behavior she had witnessed and expressing her concerns about Ms. Miscavige's health and safety.
- 77. Ms. Remini dictated these reports over the phone to Brownstone, who wrote and submitted these reports because, from a young age, Ms. Remini had been brainwashed into believing that by filing reports like this, she was helping Scientology and saving her religion.
- 78. When Ms. Remini returned to Los Angeles, she was ordered to go to Clearwater, Florida, to the Flag Land Base building, also known as "FLAG." FLAG is considered the spiritual headquarters of Scientology, where Scientologists receive top-level services that cannot be obtained anywhere else.
- 79. Ms. Remini was told that before she could receive the services she had planned on getting while there, she would undergo a quick "ethics cycle". That purportedly quick ethics cycle was one of her life's worst nightmares.
- 80. Upon arrival, Ms. Remini was presented with dozens of internal reports from Scientologists complaining about her behavior at the wedding. It was clear to Ms. Remini that she was being punished for asking where Shelly Miscavige was and for filing reports on David Miscavige and others.
- 81. Ms. Remini was held at FLAG for four months while she was put through a process that cost her hundreds of thousands of dollars and nearly led her to have a psychotic breakdown.

The Scientology process is called the "Truth Rundown," which is usually only reserved for Sea Org members. Bruce Hines, a top-level Scientology case supervisor, said he was only aware of one other civilian Scientologist put through the Truth Rundown process. David Miscavige subsequently acknowledged that it was wrong to have subjected Ms. Remini to the Truth Rundown and returned at least some of her money.

- 82. Simply put, Truth Rundown is a form of psychological torture meant to rewrite the target's memories. It is used by Scientology when Sea Org members report an ethical issue within the organization, and Scientology wants to erase their memory and implant new memories.
- 83. After months of psychological torture, Ms. Remini was nearing the point of psychotic breakdown. She finally gave in, rescinded all of her reports, and admitted that she was the problem in this situation (despite it not being true).
- 84. Finally, Ms. Remini was allowed to leave FLAG and return to Los Angeles, where she was forced to lie to her colleagues, friends, and family about what happened while she was in Florida.
- 85. Ms. Remini was made to make "amends" at FLAG not only to David Miscavige but to Tom Cruise. For example, she was forced to donate money to name a seat in a theater after Suri Cruise and was to raise money for donation to Scientology causes led by Tom Cruise.
- 86. After reports of terrible abuse emerged from Scientology's international base, Golden Era Productions, in Riverside County, Remini endured another six months of punishment for looking on the Internet and asking questions about the abuse.
  - 87. After her punishment, Ms. Remini resigned from Scientology in 2013.
- 88. After leaving Scientology, Ms. Remini filed a missing person report on Shelly Miscavige, who has not been seen in public for 17 years.

# Leaving Scientology - Fair Game

89. In 2013, Ms. Remini formally and publicly left Scientology and became an outspoken public advocate for victims of Scientology. As a result, beginning in 2013 and continuing to this day, Defendant Miscavige and the other Defendants began to level one of their most coordinated and malicious assaults against Ms. Remini as part of their policies related to Suppressive Persons and Attackers.

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90. Defendants enlisted dozens of current and former Scientologists to record videotaped messages (in Scientology production studios) to make disparaging and false claims against Ms. Remini—including false and defamatory statements that she was abusive to her mother and daughter, and that she is a racist. These videos continue to be posted at https://www.leahreminithefacts.org/videos/ and https://www.leahreminiaftermath.com/videos/.

- 91. To discredit Ms. Remini's truthful public comments regarding Defendants, Defendants also used and manipulated Ms. Remini's estranged and now deceased father, George Remini and his third wife, Dana, to make false statements about Ms. Remini, including that she is a liar, that she only wanted her name in the news, that she would not help to pay for his cancer treatments, that she turned her back on her half-sister when she was in the hospital, that she ransacked her dying grandmother's apartment, and that she has no morals. These false statements were posted to websites created and controlled by Defendants and continue to be promoted or re-posted by Scientology.
- 92. The statements Mr. Remini made were unquestionably false and contradicted by email communications and financial records. Defendants never approached Ms. Remini to seek comment or fact-check the false allegations her father made about her on camera. Additionally, Ms. Remini never had a relationship of any sort with her father's third wife and only briefly met her twice. Yet Scientology used Dana Remini as a reliable source of information about Ms. Remini.
- 93. In 2015, Ms. Remini released *Troublemaker: Surviving Hollywood and Scientology*. Ms. Remini's book, a memoir exposing Scientology's abusive conduct, went on to become a New York Times bestseller. Ms. Remini's critical and successful memoir further escalated Defendants' abusive tactics against her.
- 94. While Ms. Remini was in New York in 2015 to promote her book, she became aware that she was being followed by private investigators hired by Defendants. These private investigators followed Ms. Remini to and from her hotel and to and from all interviews and media appearances. Defendants' hired surveillance, consistent with Scientology directives, was so intimidating that it made Ms. Remini fear for her physical safety. As a result, Ms. Remini, for the first time in her life despite being a public figure, was forced to hire private bodyguards to ensure her safety during her book tour.
- 95. In addition to physically following and harassing Ms. Remini during her book tour, Defendants sent disparaging and threatening letters to third parties who were promoting Ms.

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Remini's book, including but not limited to ABC News Senior Vice President, Tom Cibrowski and John Bentley. The intent of the letters was to silence Ms. Remini, damage her reputation, and in turn, her ability to earn income from her book.

- 96. In 2015, Ms. Remini was set to appear on Anderson Cooper's CNN show to promote "Troublemaker." Due to Scientology's history of aggressive litigiousness, the interview was pre-taped so that it could be vetted by CNN's legal department. Before the interview began, Mr. Cooper warned Ms. Remini that the interview might not air. Mr. Cooper told Ms. Remini that when he aired a five-part series on physical abuse being perpetrated by David Miscavige (Scientology: A History of Violence), he and his producers faced so many OSA attacks that they might not be willing to face a new storm of harassment. Since Cooper's series aired in 2010, he has never broadcast another story about Scientology. To this day, Defendants continue to maintain attack websites against Mr. Cooper and his producers.
- 97. From 2016 through 2019, Ms. Remini created, produced and hosted the award winning A&E documentary series Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath ("Aftermath"). This documentary series told the stories of former members who were bankrupt, physically abused, molested, and raped by Scientologists and how the organization covered up those crimes. They told the stories of those whose families have been destroyed by Scientology's disconnection policies, and of those who suffered retaliation for reporting crimes to non-Scientology authorities. The documentary series won two Emmy awards, a Producers Guild Award, Independent Documentary Award (Truth to Power Award), two Gracie awards (Alliance for Women in Media Foundation), and the Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award from Child USA, again intensifying Defendants' efforts to silence and discredit her. Scientologists have also attacked Paul Bucceri, the President & Chairman of A&E Networks Group, by creating websites on him and A&E. Due to this harassment A&E was reluctant to put themselves and their employees, their advertisers at risk out of fear of further retaliation from Scientology and their agents. Contributors appearing on the series were thereafter harassed and stalked by Scientology, including through disparaging websites that were posted almost instantly.
- 98. Scientology was provided an opportunity to comment in every episode. Yet, Defendants have done everything in their power to sabotage Ms. Remini's *The Aftermath* series. Between November 2016 and February 2019, Defendants designed an operation to organize and force practicing Scientologists to write at least 500 letters seeking the cancellation of Ms. Remini's show. The letters were sent to the network heads at A&E, the CEO of Disney, and innumerable

advertisers and sponsors of the series, including Disney, Yahoo, Nissan, Coca-Cola, Nestle, and Expedia, to name just a few.

- 99. Between April and May 2018, Defendants, through the President's office of Scientology's Celebrity Centre in Hollywood, organized a meeting of Scientology celebrities and other Scientologists active in the entertainment industry. In that meeting, attendees were drilled on how to attack Ms. Remini's credibility, based on lies, using talking points that Scientology wrote. A copy of that document shows that attendees were told to state to others that Ms. Remini's contributors (survivors and whistleblowers) were criminals. This blanket smear was followed by the false suggestion that the National Enquirer was more credible than Ms. Remini's documentary series. Additionally, attendees were told to say that Ms. Remini paid survivors and whistleblowers to appear in her documentary series, which is also false.
- 100. In addition to these hundreds of letters, Scientologists, at the urging of Defendants, and in accordance with their Suppressive Person, OSA Network directives, HCOBs, HCOPLs and Fair Game policies, OSA created a front group called the Interfaith Alliance to create the appearance that religious leaders found the series one of religious bigotry. This group, none of whom were actual clergy and all of whom were Scientologists, stood outside of the A&E corporate offices and picketed, demanding cancellation of Ms. Remini's documentary series, falsely claiming that she incited bigotry and hate crimes, including, but not limited to, murder.
- 101. Defendants and Defendants' operatives also engaged in efforts to harass and threaten anyone involved in *The Aftermath*, most notably, ex-Scientologists who were whistleblowers and survivors of Scientology's abuse who agreed to be interviewed for the documentary series. Defendants then organized the harassment of non-Scientologists, like producers, crew members, support staff, editors and their family members who were not involved in the documentary series. They endured ongoing harassment by Scientologists; some of them continue to be harassed to this day via email, texts and phone calls to their homes as well as their family member's homes. Agents of Scientology who falsely claim to be journalists also call these individuals to solicit false information about Ms. Remini for Scientology's attack websites against her. After *The Aftermath* ended, Scientology publicly (but falsely) took credit for having secured its cancellation.
- 102. In 2017, Defendants continued their campaign to harass and discredit Ms. Remini. For instance, when Ms. Remini appeared on the Conan O'Brien show on January 25, 2017 to promote *Aftermath*, Defendants' operatives sent Conan O'Brien a personal letter criticizing Ms.

Remini and claiming that Remini was only speaking out against Scientology for the fame, money and attention. Mr. O'Brien commented that he has never before received a letter of this character in his 24 years of hosting late-night talk shows.

- 103. Defendants also began to intentionally and fraudulently accuse Ms. Remini and her *Aftermath* series of inciting hate crimes. In 2016, Defendants, well aware of the falsehoods being leveled at Ms. Remini, accused Ms. Remini in tweets and on their websites of causing a man named Brandon Reisdorf, whose parents were former Scientologists, to throw a rock through a window at the Los Angeles office of Scientology. Mr. Reisdorf, who was forced to disconnect from his brother and parents, was in the midst of a mental health crisis. Scientology policies ban any sort of psychiatric or psychological treatment.
- 104. Both Mr. Reisdorf and his family have publicly stated that Ms. Remini had nothing to do with this episode—yet Defendants continue to stand by their fraudulent accusations and continue to disseminate this false information on social media and on its websites to this day.
- 105. And on January 11, 2019, Defendants falsely and maliciously accused Ms. Remini and *The Aftermath* of inciting the brutal murder of a 24-year-old Taiwanese Scientologist, Chih-Jen Yeh, in its Australian headquarters. Mr. Yeh was working as a security guard and was escorting a woman to begin her program to join the Sea Org, when the woman's 16-year-old son stabbed and murdered Mr. Yeh. Without any basis, Defendants wrote letters to the President of A&E alleging that "the murderer...[was] incited by A&E and the Leah Remini/Mike Rinder series." Ms. Remini has publicly condemned the boy's actions, yet Scientology and Scientology operatives with over 200 Twitter accounts continually tweet and re-tweet intentionally false and libelous information regarding the incident. A sampling of these tweets is below.



.@LeahRemini's rap sheet includes attempted bribery, tampering with justice, and inciting hate—from vandalism to murder.

Watch the video Leah Remini—and the media doing her bidding—don't want you to see: standleague.org/reminiunhinged #HoldLeahReminiAccountable



4:24 PM · Dec 5, 2022

10 Retweets 1 Quote 29 Likes



Today is Day 41 of @LeahRemini blocking @standmonitor for simply displaying a video of her own words—and it's Day 1,537 since a man inspired by her hate speech murdered a 24-year-old Scientologist. @GameShowNetwork



11:00 AM · Mar 19, 2023 · **1,285** Views

5 Retweets 21 Likes

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106. During the years in which *Aftermath* aired on A&E, Defendants continued to stalk and harass Ms. Remini. In 2017, Defendants hired International Investigative Group, Ltd. ("IIG"), a company comprised of private investigators, to surveil and follow Ms. Remini while she was in New York filming the 2018 movie, *Second Act*, and her TV series that aired from 2016 to 2018, *Kevin Can Wait*.<sup>30</sup> Two of these private investigators were Saul Roth, a former Lieutenant in the Nassau County Police Department in New York, <sup>31</sup> and Yanti Greene. Messages obtained between Mr. Greene and Mr. Roth in unrelated litigation reveal that "word is they [Scientology] want to kill her."<sup>32</sup>

107. Defendants continued to stalk, surveil, and harass Ms. Remini from 2020 to the present day. In July and August of 2020, Ms. Remini and residents of her neighborhood in Los Angeles, California noticed a man in a white car, parked outside of Ms. Remini's home. After reasonable investigation, it was discovered that this man has a history of mental illness and a violent criminal record. Upon information and belief, provided by former top Scientology operatives, Defendants armed this man with a vehicle and money to stalk and surveil Ms. Remini. Over the course of several weeks, at Defendants' behest, this man rammed his car into the security gates of Ms. Remini's community and asked residents for Ms. Remini's address, saying he was waiting to get into her house, falsely claiming he had been there several times before, and that he needed to get a bigger ladder in order to reach her bedroom window. He was eventually arrested and then released, at which point he called the police to allege that Ms. Remini was holding hostages at her home. After police responded to Ms. Remini's house, he was again arrested.

108. Former Scientology operatives have acknowledged that Scientology has a practice of seeking out individuals with mental illness or who are homeless or addicted to drugs, and other vulnerable people in order to harass its enemies.

109. To incentivize successful outcomes, OSA operatives are rewarded with bonus points for "valuable final products," including "intelligence furnished that effectively guides the progress of Scientology"; "public matters and individuals which impede human liberty investigated and exposed"; and "enemies of scientology depopularized to the point of total

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> See April 21, 2021 Affidavit of Saul Roth in *Smith v. International Investigative Group Ltd.*, et al, NY Sup. Ct. No. 607393/2019 at 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> See April 21, 2021 Affidavit of Saul Roth at ¶¶ 3, 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Ex. 25 to Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion for Partial Summary Judgment in the case of *Smith v. Int'l Investigative Group Ltd.*, Case No. 607393/2019 (Nassau Cty., NY, May 27, 2021) at Bates Nos. 001329-334.

obliteration." There also are points for pickets, negative media, litigation filed, evictions, and government actions, among others.

- 110. Upon information and belief, Defendants also hired Talon Executive Services, Inc. ("Talon"), a company based in Costa Mesa, California, to stalk, harass and surveil Ms. Remini. In 2022, employees of Talon showed up at Ms. Remini's neighbor's home under the guise that Ms. Remini arranged for Talon to install "free security and surveillance" technology there. In reality, and based upon information and belief, Scientology had hired Talon to plant equipment that would allow Scientology to spy on Ms. Remini. Ms. Remini only became aware of this ruse after her neighbor called to thank her.
- 111. As recently as 2023, an unidentified male was recorded on video surveillance arriving at Ms. Remini's gated community in a vehicle armed with a hammer. This unidentified man drove to Ms. Remini's residence and smashed her mailbox, which she has to keep locked, to illegally seize Ms. Remini's personal mail. Police responding to Ms. Remini's call surmised that he had been sent by Scientology and, upon information and belief, he was sent by Defendants.
- 112. In addition to the physical stalking and harassment of Ms. Remini, Defendants' never-ending harassment extends to Ms. Remini's friends, family, and colleagues through a process known as a "Noisy Investigation." Noisy Investigation is a formal Scientology policy written by L. Ron Hubbard involving pretending to conduct a criminal investigation in order to sow chaos and discredit and create fear for its targets, as well as their family members, friends, and colleagues.<sup>33</sup>
- Investigations against Ms. Remini to harass her. Scientology has harassed Ms. Remini; Ms. Remini's sister, Shannon Farrara, at her workplace in Los Angeles; Ms. Remini's step-mother at her residence in North Carolina; her deceased father, George Remini; various of Ms. Remini's former employees and their family members; her step-sons in San Jose (and a friend of one step-son who tweeted that he was a big fan of *Aftermath*); her sister, Nicole Remini; and her niece and nephew in Minnesota. In each case, Defendants' agents claim to be reporters who are doing a "story" about Ms. Remini and indicate that they have information that Ms. Remini was abusive to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> See Hubbard Communications Office HCO Executive Letter of Sept. 5, 1966 entitled "How do to a NOISY Investigation," which states in pertinent part: "Here's what you do. Soon as one of these threats starts you get a Scientologist or Scientologists to investigate noisily. You find out where he or she works or worked, doctor, dentist, friends, neighbors, anyone and phone em up and say I am investigating Mr./Mrs...for criminal activities...It doesn't matter if you don't get much info. Just be NOISY –it's very odd at first but makes fantastic sense and WORKS."

her family and friends, and then attempt to get Ms. Remini's friends and family to comment on the fake accusations or provide disparaging information.

- 114. Defendants' OSA pseudo-journalists have written false statements and articles on Defendants' website, Freedom Magazine, at freedommag.org.
- 115. Freedommag.org includes various articles and videos aimed to defame and spread fraudulent misinformation about Ms. Remini. Some of these videos are entitled, "Leah Remini: A One-Woman Hate Machine"; "Leah Remini Told Dying Sister 'Get Charity Care,' Family Says"; and a video comparing Ms. Remini and the A&E network to Ku Klux Klan members who incite hate crimes.
- 116. This decade-long, coordinated harassment of Ms. Remini, as well as her friends, family, and business acquaintances, has caused severe emotional distress to Ms. Remini, has made her fear for her physical safety and that of her family, and has caused the loss of business opportunities, as laid out below.

# Social Media Attacks Against Ms. Remini

- 117. In addition to physical stalking and harassment, from 2013 to the present day, Defendants have implemented a mass coordinated social media effort against Ms. Remini to spread false and malicious information about her through hundreds of Scientology-run websites and social media accounts.
- 118. Hundreds of websites and social media accounts were created by Defendants, and/or those working at the direction of Defendants, to harass, embarrass, shame, and defame Ms. Remini. Each website was more explicit and offensive than the last, containing attacks on Ms. Remini's character, her work, her family, her daughter, and every facet of her life. These hundreds of websites are part of a larger group of websites against enemies of Scientology, which include over 5,000 separate domains, and include the same coordinated messaging dictated by OSA.
- 119. For instance, in 2015 the Defendants created a website and front group entitled, "Scientologists Taking Action Against Discrimination" ("STAND") at: www.standleague.org. The Stand League Website is one of many websites that Defendants have used for years to attack, lie about, and harass people who are deemed enemies of Scientology. This website has posted 76 blog posts and 14 articles harassing and churning lies against Ms. Remini, claiming over and over that she is an "unhinged religious bigot who profits by spreading hate." Some of these articles are entitled:

- "Are Leah Remini and A&E responsible for the Wave of Violence Against the Jehovah's Witnesses' Kingdom Halls?"
- "Leah Remini is a Disgrace to Women of Valor Everywhere."
- "As the World Remembers the Holocaust, Bigot Leah Remini Inspires Praise of Hitler." <sup>34</sup>
- 120. Defendants also created https://www.leahreminithefacts.org/, an entire website designed to attack, intimidate, and harass Ms. Remini. The main page of the website is a narrative created at the direction of Defendants with various tabs leveling outrageous accusations against Ms. Remini, including but not limited to: 1) filing a false police report and then attempting to extort Scientology, and 2) abusing family members, including her half-sister, Stephani, and father, George Remini, both of whom have since passed away. The site also includes articles entitled:
  - Leah Remini to Dying Sister: "Get Charity Care," with headline reading, "Remini's former stepmother lets loose on how Leah 'made a complete mockery and disaster' of sibling Stephani Remini's death."
  - When Vengeance Leads to Words, Words Lead to Hate and Violence, with headline reading, "Leah Remini has incited the very bigotry and hate that she herself was fearful of and abhorred as a Scientologist."
- 121. This website includes a separate tab with 55 videos recorded at the direction of Defendants eliciting negative commentary from individuals, some of whom Ms. Remini did not even know or have any real interaction with.
- 122. The online attacks do not end there. Defendants created https://www.leahreminiaftermath.com/, with excerpts entitled, among others, "How Leah Remini Viciously Breaks up a Family," "How Leah Remini Callously Treats her Own Family," and "Leah's Anti-Religious Sugar Daddy's History of Drug Dealing and Cons."
- 123. This website includes 131 videos recorded at the direction of Defendants eliciting false and defamatory commentary from individuals regarding Ms. Remini and 61 blog posts leveling false and defamatory claims, including, "Another Criminal Remini Source Returns to Jail," "A&E and Leach Remini Spread Hate," "Remini: Aftermath Propaganda Inciting Religious Hate," "Leah's Anti-Religious Sugar Daddy's History of Drug Dealing and Cons," "Leah's New Liar 4 Hire is a Proud Confederate Flag Lover," "Leah Remini's Paid Liar," "Leah Remini's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> This accusation is particularly egregious, as Ms. Remini's mother is Jewish.

1 Aftermath: Exposed As Lies Once Again," "Leah Remini's Family Expose Leah's Lies," "Leah Remini's FRAUD," "Total Fraud," "Leah Remini's Real Aftermath: Hate Speech, Threats, and 2 Violence," and "Leah Remini: The Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde of Hollywood," among many others. This website also includes a link to a series of letters written by current members of 3 Scientology in a concerted effort to prevent the production of *Aftermath*. 4 In addition to websites created by Defendants and its employees, there are hundreds of Scientology-run Twitter accounts that are actively tweeting daily misinformation about Ms. 5 Remini in furtherance of the Suppressive Person and OSA operations and attacks that Defendants 6 are deploying against her. Based upon information and belief, these individuals create Twitter accounts for the purpose of harassing Ms. Remini and other whistleblowers and advocates who 7 have been deemed Suppressive Persons or attackers of Scientology, buy followers on social media, follow each other's accounts, and coordinate their attacks on Ms. Remini. For instance, since 2017, @standmonitor, created and run by Defendants, has posted thousands of malicious and harassing tweets about Ms. Remini. In March 2023 alone, they have posted over 247 tweets aimed at Ms. Remini, includes dozens of photoshopped images of Ms. Remini in "I love rapists" apparel with similar fraudulent messages purporting to show Ms. 11 Remini's support of rapists under the hashtag, #ReminiLovesRapists. Just a few of these photos is included herein, but hundreds of similar images appear under Defendants' Twitter accounts: 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 -30-

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL





127. Scientology-operated Twitter accounts make unsubstantiated claims that Ms. Remini is abusive to her daughter, who is now 18 years old. For instance, on March 22, 2023 @standmonitor tweeted that "@Leah Remini trains her daughter to beat little girls." And @vettedfacts claims that Ms. Remini's daughter left "her toxic home life" because Ms. Remini "called her daughter a c\*\*t, all the time." Scientologist Phil Maasen tweeted "Leah Rimjob is a hateful c\*\*\* & it shows even on her stupid, boring game show, citing Leahreminithefacts.org, a website run by Scientology.

128. Defendants, or individuals directed by Defendants, have tweeted untrue and highly damaging claims that Ms. Remini has involuntarily committed her college daughter to a psychiatric facility. These tweets also included questions like "Where is Sofia," leaving Ms. Remini to fear that Scientology operatives and agents were trying to track down her daughter's location. These claims have caused Ms. Remini to fear for the safety of her daughter.

129. Defendants, or individuals directed by Defendants, also have control over hundreds of Twitter handles which are regularly used to attack Ms. Remini.<sup>35</sup> Indeed, while there are

<sup>35</sup> To name just 31 active Twitter accounts, controlled and/or directed by Defendants or persons working for

virtually hundreds of Twitter accounts controlled and run by Defendants which actively tweet false and defamatory information against Ms. Remini on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, 31 accounts have tweeted 1,398 tweets about and against Ms. Remini in March 2023 alone. A few examples of the many defamatory tweets from other Twitter handles are below:



@elonmusk @leahremini is obsessed with inciting violence against Scientology. Hundreds of threats and acts of violence were caused by her now cancelled TV show, podcast, and her tweets—even the murder of a member.



6:13 PM · Dec 17, 2022 · 204 Views

2 Retweets 10 Likes

Defendants, that have spread lies and hate against Ms. Remini in the month of March alone, see :e.g. @BFTSTANDleague; @CESTANDleague; @DMStandLeague; @evamahoney101; @FreedomEthics; @gsstandleague; @standmonitor; @sliverson; @JMStandLeague; @JGStandLeague; @jimrossmeskimen; @JohnAllender5; @JPdarkn; @DorisPansy534; @SoulPrisoner; @KiwiBoy2020; @lauriejbart; @LCStandLeague; @MediaEthicsChk; @MKTSTANDleague; @LW\_STANDleague; @QReligious; @qcus007; @STANDleague; @ScientologyDad; @EndBigotryNow2; @ItsBklynSteve; @parismorf; and @XanthiaHare.

ForensicFracker

@ForensicFracker
In addition to promoting rapists, @LeahRemini has one other past time: inciting hate.

Watch the full video here: standle ague.org/reminiunhinged
#HoldLeahReminiAccountable

Leah Remini

I wish I were a man so I could

rape too!

4:26 PM · Apr 29, 2023 · 79 Views

130. As a result of Defendants' ongoing course of physical and social media harassment against Ms. Remini, Ms. Remini has incurred substantial economic expenses to protect her physical and emotional health and safety – something she has never done despite being in the public eye for most of her career.

# iHeartMedia Contract

- 131. In addition to the conduct detailed above, Defendants' incessant harassment of anyone or any entity affiliated with Ms. Remini has caused Ms. Remini to lose current and prospective business contracts and opportunities.
- 132. On April 13, 2018, Ms. Remini entered into a binding contract and profit-sharing arrangement with iHeartMedia + Entertainment, Inc., for the purpose of producing a podcast on iHeartRadio. The contract was signed by both Ms. Remini and Michael Biondo, the SVP Business Operations & Partnerships of iHeartMedia + Entertainment, Inc.
- 133. On May 1, 2020, iHeartMedia + Entertainment, Inc. and Ms. Remini executed an Amendment to the April 13, 2018 contract, wherein Ms. Remini was to produce two podcasts –

(1) a weekly "chat podcast"; and (2) a weekly podcast about Scientology. The contract gave iHeartMedia the option to renew each of the two podcasts for an additional two seasons.

- 134. The May 1, 2020 contract was signed by Ms. Remini and Mike Rinder, a former Scientologist, and Conal Byrne, the President of iHeart Podcasts.
- 135. Ms. Remini and Mr. Rinder co-hosted their Scientology-related podcast, called *Scientology: Fair Game*. This podcast included their accounts of Scientology, including its policy and practice of inflicting abusive tactics in the name of Fair Game on those who are deemed to be enemies of Scientology.
- 136. On March 4, 2022, as part of its Fair Game campaign and in order to derail her podcast, Defendants directed and controlled the publication of an article at https://www.freedommag.org/blog/iheart-produces-outrageous-bigotry-and-they-wont-talk-about-it-0be7bf, claiming that iHeartRadio "allows Remini, in obscenity-laced and abusive language, to insult, defame and demean Scientologists."
- 137. The article details the measures taken at the direction of Defendants to interfere with and terminate Ms. Remini's contract with iHeartMedia. For instance, Defendants openly admit that they called and emailed iHeartMedia's executive vice president and chief communications officer, producer, and the podcast audio editor in an attempt to prevent Ms. Remini's podcast from airing.
- 138. Indeed, Defendants even took credit for advertisers pulling their advertising from Ms. Remini's podcast on iHeartRadio.
- 139. Throughout the duration of the contract, Defendants engaged in continuous efforts to end Ms. Remini's contract with iHeartMedia. Defendants directed individuals to follow and harass podcast producers until those producers grew so fearful that iHeartMedia made the decision to terminate the relationship with Ms. Remini to protect its employees and agents, even though the show was successful in its ratings.
- 140. Ultimately, iHeartMedia ended its contract with Ms. Remini after its last episode aired on March 7, 2022.

## AudioBoom Contract

141. On August 1, 2022, Ms. Remini entered into a contract with Audioboom Limited to be the exclusive audio advertising sales representative for the *Scientology: Fair Game* podcast for one year. The contract was signed by both Ms. Remini and Stuart Last, the CEO of Audioboom Limited.

142. On August 3, 2022, at the direction of Defendants, STAND sent a letter to CEO Last informing him that "Audioboom will soon be syndicating the hate podcast of two rabid anti-Scientologists." The letter goes on to explain that "[w]hen the podcast was last running, we reached out to companies to inform them this was the defamation and bigotry they were paying for through their advertising; we heard back from chief communications and marketing officers from Verizon to eBay confirming their ads were no longer running on this hate podcast. The podcast shortly thereafter lost all commercial advertising. Audioboom advertisers deserve the decency of being informed you intend to identify their brands with defamation and hate. We will be so informing them." The letter is signed by 39 Scientologists and was also sent to the CFO, COO, Director of Operations & Communications, VP of US Content & Partnerships, and Content Manager for Audioboom.

143. On August 10, 2022, at the direction of Defendants, STAND sent a letter to Julie Hansen, the US CEO of one of Audioboom's advertisers, Babbel, addressing the podcast and stating, "[w]e trust that, like Verizon, eBay, State Farm and countless other companies, this kind of dehumanizing, hateful content violates your ad-buying guidelines and could not be further from your brand values. Audioboom syndicates hate. Please pull your advertising from this platform."

144. On August 18, 2022, the Chief Content Officer of Audioboom, Brendan Regan, sent the following to agents of Ms. Remini:

StandLeague.org has been contacting Audioboom's advertisers saying that we're promoting hate as a company by working with Fair Game. They've sent 6 emails to the CEO of PrettyLitter alone, a client not even associated with Fair Game.

Are you aware of this and has Fair Game been impacted by this before? From the trailer that was just released it alludes that this may have been the case at iHeart.

145. On August 22, 2022, at the direction of Defendants, STAND sent a letter to the CEO of Candy Capital, Nick Candy, a significant investor in AudioBoom, informing him that, "[w]hen this hate podcast was streaming on its previous platform, Verizon, State Farm, eBay and others pulled their ads upon learning they were sponsoring hate. All commercial advertising then ceased on the podcast. There have been no new episodes since March 2022," and asking that, "[a]s the company's largest investor, we write requesting you do something about its syndication of hate."

146. On August 30, 2022, Ms. Remini's agents received a communication from an Audioboom executive which marked the formal termination of Ms. Remini's contract with AudioBoom. This communication specifically noted that the termination of Ms. Remini's AudioBoom contract was due to "STAND's harassment and intimidation of Audioboom's employees" as well the false and defamatory accusations made by STAND to AudioBoom and its advertisers, and the negative business implications that would reasonably ensue.

# Game Show Network- People Puzzler

- 147. In January of 2021, Ms. Remini began hosting the show, "People Puzzler" on the Game Show Network, a show which featured contestants answering crossword-style clues about pop culture and celebrities.
- 148. Defendants, in their usual course of action of attacking and harassing Ms. Remini, began posting open letters to the Game Show Network about how it should stop airing a show which allows an "unhinged bigot" to host, as well as claiming that the Game Show Network is employing a "rape apologist as their host" and that "Remini obviously agrees...'it's not a big deal' to sexually abuse women."
- 149. Defendants also assailed the advertisers of the Game Show Network urging these advertisers, including but not limited to Kellogg's and Proctor & Gamble to pull their support from the network by falsely asserting that Ms. Remini has inspired "hundreds of threats and acts of violence...including declarations of intent to...murder Church [of Scientology] members."
- 150. Defendants also use Twitter to post images of Ms. Remini juxtaposed against the logos of well-known brands as part of an effort to leave the impression that major brands are pulling out as advertisers of "People Puzzler" due to Ms. Remini, including advertisers that have not withdrawn their support.
- 151. Defendants also sent OSA operatives claiming to be journalists to the set of People Puzzler, asking producers about "claims" that Ms. Remini is allegedly abusive in the workplace.
- 152. Production on the fourth season of People Puzzler should be underway. However, production has not started, and Ms. Remini has not been contacted to begin the new season, which, upon information and belief, is the result of the ongoing harassment experienced by the network.

#### **VICE News Documentary**

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153. In December of 2022, Ms. Remini was contacted by a documentary filmmaker and correspondent and producers for Vice News to make a documentary about the disappearance of Defendant Miscavige's wife, Shelley Miscavige.

154. After two months of creative discussions between Ms. Remini and Vice, Ms. Remini's agents were abruptly informed on March 2, 2022, that the project would not be moving forward. Based upon information and belief, Vice ceased its discussions with Ms. Remini due to Defendants' Fair Game campaign.

#### ID/PR

- 155. On February 24, 2023, Scientology started a new campaign against Ms. Remini.
- 156. Ms. Remini has been a client of the entertainment publicity firm ID/PR for nearly a decade. During her time as a client, Ms. Remini would take a hiatus occasionally when she didn't plan to do any press appearances and would therefore not pay a retainer during this time.
- 157. ID/PR represents hundreds of entertainment industry figures, from actors to directors to writers. It also represents production companies and other media businesses.
- 158. Other clients of ID/PR have, from time to time, made jokes or statements related to Shelly Miscavige or Tom Cruise. Scientology's immediate response to those individuals was vicious attacks on social media, publicly calling these individuals, among other things, bigots.
- 159. This is a standard operating procedure for Scientology to evoke Scientology sympathy for being attacked by alleged religious bigots.<sup>36</sup>
- On February 24, 2023, Scientology's OSA Operations began an attack on Ms. Remini's publicity firm. Through official Scientology accounts and Scientology-controlled accounts, operatives began disseminating a set of conspiracy theories that were utterly false and defamatory and involved Kelly Novak, the founder of ID/PR, being the leader of an anti-Scientology cabal. Scientology also posted pictures of Ms. Novak with Harvey Weinstein, suggesting that she supported sexual abuse.
- 161. Other conspiracy theories included the false allegation that Ms. Remini was the head of ID/PR and covertly directed an anti-Scientology campaign from her position.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Feb. 17, 1966 HCO PL entitled "Public Investigation Section," which reads in pertinent part: "Associating the attacking group's activities with reprehensible groups in the past by using similar descriptive words will be found very effective. For example, if the work "white" has been made hateful to the public by some past criminal group we use "white" in our descriptive terminology concerning the group that is attacking us and whom we are investigating."

162. Scientology then started tagging the Twitter accounts of other celebrities known to be clients of ID/PR to ask them if they were aware of this non-existent anti-Scientology conspiracy being run by ID/PR.

- 163. All of these tweets, which eventually grew to over 100, were intended to get Ms. Novak to buckle under the pressure and drop Ms. Remini as a client, which would further isolate Ms. Remini in the entertainment industry.
- 164. Ms. Novak later direct messaged the Scientology account @StandMonitor and told them that Ms. Remini was no longer a client.
- 165. At the time, Ms. Remini was also on hiatus with ID/PR, as she did not have any press commitments. She, however, remained a client of the firm as she had been for many years.
- 166. Scientology tweeted that Ms. Novak had dropped her as a client. Official Scientology and Scientology-controlled accounts cheered on this news and praised Ms. Novak for dumping Ms. Remini.
- 167. Scientology further pushed the idea that influential entertainment industry figures abandoned Ms. Remini due to her "toxicity" and "bigotry."
- 168. A few days after her initial direct message to @standmonitor, Ms. Novak messaged the account again to tell them that not only was Ms. Remini a client of ID/PR but that they were also misrepresenting her words.
- 169. Scientology then turned on Ms. Novak again and started attacking her and Ms. Remini, falsely suggesting that Ms. Remini had threatened Ms. Novak into retracting her previous direct message.
- 170. Since this defamatory campaign began, official Scientology accounts have tweeted these defamatory allegations well over 100 times.
- 171. Since the day Ms. Remini left Scientology, Defendants have stalked Ms. Remini, harassed Ms. Remini, disseminated hateful, false, and defamatory information about Ms. Remini, and done everything in their power to interfere with any and every business relationship in an effort to prevent her disclosing what goes on inside Scientology.
- 172. While Defendants have not succeeded in "muzzl[ing]," "obliterat[ing]," nor "ruin[ing] utterly," they have threatened and harmed what Ms. Remini holds most valuable—her family, her security, her reputation, and her career. Scientology has orchestrated, and continues to impose, a daily drumbeat of lies, misinformation, harassment, surveillance, threats, and invasions of Ms. Remini's privacy.

173. Scientology has made the expected abuses and harassment a weight Leah Remini always carries, knowing that she will be followed, her trash will be searched, her image distorted, and her college-age daughter baited. It has made virtually every contract Ms. Remini is offered problematic, and deterred her from seeking opportunities, for fear of what would be unleashed on her business partners—all exactly as Defendants intended.

174. Defendants have committed a litary of legal violations that must be restrained and remedied. Defendants' constant, life-altering, tortious behavior cannot continue.

# Scientology's Pattern and Practice of Abusing Those Deemed Suppressive Persons

- 175. Scientology's campaign against Leah Remini is rooted in Scientology policies and is consistent with, and a continuation of, similar efforts. A few examples, though not an exhaustive list, are described below.
- 176. In 1971, journalist and Holocaust survivor Paulette Cooper published an investigative book about Scientology's abusive practices and criminality entitled "The Scandal of Scientology." According to files later seized by the FBI, Hubbard, implementing the policies he wrote, designed plans and activities against her to silence and destroy Paulette Cooper as a Suppressive Person.
- 177. Upon Hubbard's command, the Guardian's Office initiated an operation named "Operation Dynamite," which was intended to frame Cooper. Agents for the Guardian's Office obtained Cooper's fingerprints, her letterhead, and gained access to her typewriter without her authorization, and manipulated a bomb threat sent to Scientology. As a result, Cooper was indicted by federal authorities. Cooper was later fully vindicated when an FBI raid of Scientology in 1977 uncovered internal Scientology directives about the plan to frame her.
- 178. In 1976, because Cooper had not yet been silenced, Hubbard commanded the Guardian's Office to initiate an operation called "Operation Freakout." The operation included plans to attribute to Cooper threats against President Ford, Secretary of State Kissinger, and Arab consulates. The stated goal was to get Cooper "incarcerated in a mental institution or jail or at least to hit her so hard that she drops her attacks" and "[t]o remove PC from her position of power so that she cannot attack the C of S [Church of Scientology]."
- 179. Over nearly a decade, Scientology continued its mission to follow the policy to destroy Cooper's reputation, her mental health, and her life, including but not limited to destroying her father's finances and business, illegally wiretapping her phones, having agents of Scientology befriend her and move in with her to spy on her; send smear letters filled with lies to her friends

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<sup>37</sup> United States v. Hubbard, 686 F.2d 955 (D.C. Cir. 1982), Sentencing Memorandum of the United States of America, Dec. 3, 1979.

book officially imported into countries that had much stricter libel laws so Scientology could sue her; and break into her psychiatrist's office to steal her medical records.

180. In 1973, upon Hubbard's command and his wife Mary Sue Hubbard's leadership,

and family; paper her neighborhood with fliers filled with lies about her sexual activities; have her

180. In 1973, upon Hubbard's command and his wife Mary Sue Hubbard's leadership, the Guardian's Office initiated an operation called "Operation Snow White." At the time, Scientology faced significant scrutiny from governments worldwide, especially in the United States. These government agencies were put on Scientology's target list and they too received "Guardian's Office Handlings."

181. By the time it ended in 1977 with a massive FBI raid, Operation Snow White had become the most extensive infiltration into the United States government and its agencies in history. Thousands of Scientologists obtained jobs to infiltrate the federal government to steal records, destroy records, alter records with false information, and gather intelligence on the federal government's investigations into Scientology and L. Ron Hubbard.

182. The Department of Justice Sentencing Memorandum<sup>37</sup> for the Scientology members indicted in the conspiracy reads:

The brazen and persistent burglaries, thefts and buggings directed against the United States Government were but one minor aspect of the defendants wanton assault upon the laws of this country. The well-orchestrated campaign to thwart the federal Grand Jury Investigation by destroying evidence, giving false fingerprints in response to a Grand Jury subpoena, harboring a fugitive, kidnapping a witness, preparing an elaborate cover-up story and assisting in the giving of false statements to the Grand Jury shows the contempt which these defendants had for the judicial system of this country. . . . The standard of human conduct embodied in such practices represent no less than the absolute perversion of any known ethical value system. In view of this, it defies the imagination that these defendants have the unmitigated audacity to seek to defend their actions in the name of 'religion.'

183. Scientology had also successfully infiltrated governments in 30 countries worldwide and Interpol, the international organization that facilitates law enforcement cooperation globally. 38

184. In 1975, Scientology landed in Clearwater, Florida, intending to turn it, per Hubbard, into a "Scientology city." But Scientology entered Clearwater under a pseudonymous entity and began buying up well-known properties in downtown Clearwater.

185. For a period, Scientology operated under the name of a shell company called "United Churches of Florida."

186. The plan to infiltrate Clearwater and take it over was known internally in Scientology as "Project Normandy." Once city officials became aware that Scientology, not the United Churches of Florida, was buying up properties in Clearwater, officials like Mayor Gabe Cazares became alarmed and started to speak out. Cazares said Scientology's attempt to take over Clearwater in such an underhanded way was a "paramilitary operation by a terrorist group."

187. For expressing his concerns, Cazares was declared Fair Game and subject to one of the more horrific sets of operations in Scientology history. The goal of these operations remained consistent with Scientology's Fair Game laws: to "silence and muzzle" and "obliterate" the attacker.

188. Most of what is known about attempts to destroy Cazares was discovered after the FBI raided Scientology buildings in 1977.

189. At least five significant operations were conducted against Cazares by Scientology. The names of these operations included "Operation Cazares Handling," "Operation Keeler," "Operation Speedy Gonzales," "Project Taco-Less, and "Operation Italian Fog."

190. While he was in Washington DC (Cazares was running for Congress at the time), a Scientology operative worked her way into Cazares' life and convinced him to give her a ride. Another Scientology operative pretended to be hit by Cazares' car. Cazares' Scientology companion in the car persuaded him not to return to the scene.

March 13, 1961 HCO PL: Department of Official Affairs: Issue 1, stating in pertinent part "f. The action of bringing about a pro-Scientology government consists of making a friend of the most highly placed government person one can reach, even placing Scientologists in domestic and clerical posts close to him and seeing to it that Scientology resolves his troubles and case;" https://www.nytimes.com/1993/10/14/us/scientologists-granted-tax-exemption-by-the-us.html?sec=&spon=&pagewanted=all

- 191. The goal of Operation Keeler was to give the media and Democratic Party officials to whom Scientology operatives wrote the impression that Cazares was not only involved in a hit-and-run but that the passenger in his car when the accident happened was a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair.
- 192. Scientology had operatives and agents call Cazares's home pretending to be women who had a sexual interest in Cazares to destroy his marriage. In addition, Scientology operatives planted a fake marriage certificate in Mexican government files to try and frame him for bigamy. At one point, Cazares hired Merrell Vannier to serve as his attorney as he took on Scientology. However, Cazares later learned that Vannier was, in fact, an agent for Scientology's Guardian's Office.
- 193. The Cult Awareness Network (CAN) was founded in 1978 in the aftermath of the cult mass murder in Jonestown, Guyana. The total destruction of CAN is one of many examples of an organization, rather than a specific individual, that was targeted for speaking out against Scientology.
- 194. CAN became a critical hub of information and support in the pre-internet days for people who were concerned that their family members, friends, and loved ones were being brainwashed by Scientology. People who wanted to learn more about what Scientology was could call one of CAN's 23 chapters and speak to a volunteer who could educate them on the realities of Scientology or 200 other cults.
- 195. CAN officials also spoke out publicly about Scientology's abuses. For example, in 1991, Cynthia Kisser of CAN was quoted in TIME Magazine's cover story about Scientology. Kisser said: "Scientology is quite likely the most ruthless, the most classically terroristic, the most litigious and the most lucrative cult the country has ever seen. No cult extracts more money from its members."
- 196. Scientology routinely attacked CAN and referred to it as a "religious hate group." As part of its operation against CAN, Scientology commanded 50 civilian Scientologists to try and become members of CAN. When these Scientologists were rejected for membership, they filed discrimination lawsuits against CAN. The attorney filing these lawsuits on their behalf was Scientologist Kendrick Moxon, whose law firm primarily handles matters related to Scientology.
- 197. Moxon also represented, on a pro-bono basis, non-Scientologists who wanted to sue CAN for non-Scientology related matters.

198. These operations achieved their objectives when CAN was forced into bankruptcy as a result of litigation directed and paid for by Scientology.

- 199. As part of the reorganization of CAN in bankruptcy, its assets were auctioned off. This included use of the CAN name, control over its website, and even its phone numbers.
- 200. These assets were won at auction by a Scientologist who promptly turned them over to Scientology.
- 201. In the nascent days of the internet, people were still not aware that Scientology had gained control of CAN's assets. As a result, people would call CAN seeking help on getting their loved ones out of Scientology, but would have no idea that they were receiving advice from a Scientologist.
- 202. In 1991, Time Magazine published an investigation by reporter Richard Behar into Scientology entitled "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power." The cover story devastated Scientology's public reputation and led David Miscavige to go to war against Time Magazine and Behar personally. For years, Behar was trailed and harassed by Scientology's private investigators. In addition, Scientology illegally obtained copies of his phone records and credit reports. Scientology also spent millions of dollars trying to tarnish Behar's reputation and that of Time Magazine.
- 203. In 1997, investor Bob Minton became a Fair Game target of Scientology after he began funding efforts to expose Scientology's abuses and financially supporting former Scientologists who were whistleblowers. Minton, who was never a Scientologist, became a key focus of David Miscavige. Under Miscavige's command, Scientology got Minton's bank accounts in Switzerland frozen based on false money laundering charges from the Nigerian government.
- 204. After Minton spent \$10 million on efforts to expose Scientology, he finally gave up after he was left penniless and fled to Ireland.
- 205. David Touretzky a research professor in the Computer Science Department at Carnegie Mellon University, has also been the object of Fair Game. Though he has never been a member of Scientology, he has been a public critic, particularly of Narconon, a Scientology drug rehabilitation program. Narconon promotes the idea that drugs reside in the body fat, where they can be released years later, and promotes the use of saunas for detoxification. OSA directed a campaign to "get DST removed from his position at CMU and neutralized as an attacker." It included efforts to gin up a Congressional investigation, cut off Touretzky's federal funding, circulate letters to Carnegie Mellon faculty and flyers to businesses where Touretzky shopped,

activate Carnegie Mellon alumni, field websites critical of Touretzky. and spread false stories in the media, including tales that Dr. Touretzky would be responsible for another Columbine. The goals was also to keep Touretzky "distracted and under attack on the Net by tripling the negative postings that were being done previously."

- 206. Tory Christman, a former Scientologist and former Office of Special Affairs agent, became the focus of several OSA operations in 2000 after she publicly left Scientology. The sophisticated operation Scientology ran against Christman due to her being declared Fair Game was revealed in a leaked March 2006 Office of Special Affairs Order which explained in detail how OSA was to destroy Christman.
- 207. In "find[ing] what they seek to protect and destroy it," OSA reviewed Christman's confidential religious and ethics files and determined that Christman sought to protect her health, reputation, relationships with the media, and job. The goal of the OSA operation was stated: "Tory dismissed as an attacker or totally restrained and muzzled."
- 208. Among the nefarious activities listed in the OSA memo: Have Christman's ex-husband (who remained in Scientology) call and write to news outlets and her employer to smear her as a liar.
- 209. The OSA memo directed that a Scientology private investigator infiltrate the consulting business at which Christman worked with clients under the ruse of becoming a new client. After signing with Christman, the private investigator was to complain to her boss that she was incompetent. The OSA Order also instructed operatives to place negative reviews about Christman on message boards and the Better Business Bureau website. The comments should include "that [Christman] is a crazy person taking anti-depressants."
- 210. In 2013, a private investigator who had just been arrested by law enforcement in West Allis, Wisconsin, revealed that he was being paid \$10,000 a week by Scientology to track David Miscavige's father, Ron Miscavige.
- 211. The senior Miscavige had fled his son's reign at a secretive Scientology base in Southern California and was living in exile in Wisconsin.
- 212. The private investigator told authorities that while monitoring Ron Miscavige, he thought Miscavige might be having a heart attack. The investigator called David Miscavige to pass on this information. The private investigator told authorities that David Miscavige told him that if he witnessed his father having a heart attack, he was not to interfere and let him die.

- 213. In 2016 when Ron Miscavige's memoirs were published, Scientology registered hundreds of websites to smear his reputation and even went so far as to have Scientology's top attorney Monique Yingling falsely attack Ron Miscavige in a television interview.
- 214. These operations, among others, demonstrate a pattern and practice of harassment, defamation, and abuse through hundreds of Scientology orders, carried out since its inception and spanning over seven decades through today, affecting Ms. Remini and others, and likely to endanger others in the future.

# V. CAUSES OF ACTION COUNT I

# **CIVIL HARASSMENT**

- 215. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 216. From the moment Plaintiff Remini departed Scientology, she was declared a suppressive person and has been subjected to a series of acts of harassment by Defendants and Defendants' operatives.
- 217. Defendants' course of conduct includes, but is not limited to, following, surveilling, and stalking Plaintiff, sending Scientology operatives to break into Ms. Remini's gated community, stealing her personal residential mail, vandalizing her mailbox, planting and/or attempting to plant spyware in close proximity to her home, sending harassing correspondence to Plaintiff and to others, including business associates and sponsors regarding Plaintiff, and creating a social media smear campaign against Plaintiff that includes false and malicious accusations made against Ms. Remini, and at times, her family. As Defendants' pattern of conduct was defamatory and conducted with the intent to harass, it was criminal in nature not protected by the veil of religious practice.
- 218. Plaintiff also experienced scores of incidents of credible threats of violence, placing Plaintiff in fear for her own safety and the safety of her immediate family. These threats of violence could not, and did not, serve any legitimate purpose.
- 219. Defendants' stalking of Plaintiff constitutes unlawful violence in violation of Section 646.9 of the California Penal Code.

- 220. Defendants' knowing and willful course of conduct directed at Plaintiff has occurred for at least ten years and continues to this day; it has alarmed, annoyed, and harassed her, without any legitimate purpose other than to cause her harm. The conduct is at such a level as to cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress as has been suffered by Ms. Remini.
  - 221. Some examples of Defendants' harassment, as described above, include:
    - a. Being physically harassed and surveilled by private investigators, private citizens, and OSA members of Scientology at the behest of Defendants;
    - b. Defendants directing and coordinating an extensive and decade-long social media campaign against Ms. Remini via hundreds of Scientology-run and directed Twitter accounts and websites by means of false pretenses, misrepresentations and lies; and
    - c. Using social media and other means to send hundreds of letters to Ms. Remini's business associates and advertisers threatening these individuals and entities to cease their affiliation with Ms. Remini based on lies and misinformation.
- 222. Defendants' willful acts of harassment entitles Plaintiff Remini to an order enjoining Defendants, and their agents, from harassing, intimidating, stalking, threatening, contacting, either directly or indirectly, by mail, social media, correspondence, or otherwise, or coming within a specified distance of, or disturbing the peace of, Plaintiff.
- 223. Further, an award of compensatory and punitive damages to Plaintiff from Defendants is justified.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for civil harassment and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

#### **COUNT II**

# STALKING - CALIFORNIA CODE § 1708.7

- 224. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 225. Defendants engaged in a pattern of conduct from 2013 and continuing to the present, with the intent to follow, alarm, place under surveillance, stalk, and harass the Plaintiff.

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- 226. This continuous course of conduct in which Defendants engaged against Plaintiff includes being physically harassed and surveilled by private investigators (through their lawyers), private citizens, and OSA members of Scientology at the behest of Defendants as described herein. Defendants have also engaged in stalking of Plaintiff by posting threatening information to various websites and via social media on a continuing basis.
- 227. As a result of Defendants' continuing pattern of harassing conduct over the last ten years and through present day, Plaintiff reasonably feared for her safety and the safety of her family.
- 228. As a result of Defendants' continuing pattern of harassing conduct over the last ten years and through present day, Plaintiff reasonably suffered severe emotional distress.
- 229. Defendants, as part of their pattern of conduct alleged herein, made credible threats to the Plaintiff with the intent to place the Plaintiff in reasonable fear for her safety, despite the Plaintiff on multiple occasions clearly demanding that Defendants cease and abate their pattern of conduct.
- 230. As such, an award of compensatory and punitive damages to Plaintiff from Defendants is justified.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for civil stalking and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

#### **COUNT III**

#### INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

- 231. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 232. Since 2013, Defendants have engaged in a continuing course of conduct towards Ms. Remini that constitutes extreme and outrageous conduct.
- 233. Defendants intended their extreme and outrageous conduct to cause the distress and suffering of Plaintiff or knew that such conduct would cause Plaintiff distress and suffering.
- 234. As a result of the continuing course of extreme and outrageous conduct of Defendants, Plaintiff has suffered severe emotional distress, mental anguish, and has suffered damages.
- 235. As such, an award of compensatory and punitive damages to Plaintiff from Defendants is justified.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for intentional infliction of emotional distress and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

#### **COUNT IV**

#### TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTAL RELATIONSHIP

- 236. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
  - 237. Plaintiff had a binding and valid contract with iHeartMedia.
  - 238. Plaintiff had a binding and valid contract with AudioBoom.
- 239. Defendants knew about the contractual relationship between Ms. Remini and iHeartMedia and Audioboom.
- 240. Defendants intentionally interfered with Ms. Remini's contractual relationship with iHeartMedia, without any justification, through actions including but not limited to: writing false and disparaging accusations about Ms. Remini and her podcast on various social media websites and twitter accounts owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants and Defendants' operatives; sending disparaging letters about Ms. Remini to iHeartMedia's executive vice president and COO, producer, podcast audio editor, and advertisers; and harassing iHeartMedia's podcast producers until they decided to end its contractual relationship with Ms. Remini on March 7, 2022.
- 241. Defendants intentionally interfered with Ms. Remini's contractual relationship with AudioBoom, without any justification, by engaging in conduct that included, but is not limited to sending disparaging letters about Ms. Remini and her podcast to the CEO of AudioBoom as well as AudioBoom's advertisers and investors, encouraging AudioBoom to end their relationship with Ms. Remini until AudioBoom did end its contractual relationship with Ms. Remini on August 30, 2022. Engaging in the aforesaid conduct, Defendants intended to disrupt the contractual relationships with Ms. Remini and AudioBoom and iHeartMedia or knew that the disruption of these relationships was substantially certain to occur.
- 242. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' tortious interference with Ms. Remini's contractual relations, Ms. Remini's contractual relationships with AudioBoom and iHeartMedia were indeed disrupted.
- 243. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' tortious interference with Ms. Remini's contractual relations, Ms. Remini suffered economic harm, including without limitation,

the loss of revenues and fees Ms. Remini would have derived had iHeartMedia and Audioboom maintained a contractual relationship with Ms. Remini.

- 244. Accordingly, Ms. Remini has suffered damage as a result of Defendants' tortious interference with Ms. Remini's contractual relationship with iHeartMedia and AudioBoom.
- 245. As such, an award of compensatory and punitive damages to Plaintiff from Defendants is justified.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for tortious interference with a contractual relationship and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

#### **COUNT V**

### INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE

- 246. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 247. Ms. Remini and AudioBoom were in an economic relationship that, had this relationship continued, likely would have resulted in an economic benefit to Ms. Remini.
- 248. Ms. Remini and iHeartMedia were in an economic relationship that, had this relationship continued, likely would have resulted in an economic benefit to Ms. Remini.
- 249. Ms. Remini and Game Show Network were in an economic relationship that, if this relationship continues, likely will result in an economic benefit to Ms. Remini.
- 250. Ms. Remini and Vice News were in an economic relationship that probably would have resulted in an economic benefit to Ms. Remini.
- 251. Ms. Remini's business relationships with AudioBoom, iHeartMedia, Vice News, and the Game Show Network contained the probability of future economic benefits to Remini in the form of revenues.
- 252. Defendants knew of the economic relationship between Ms. Remini and AudioBoom, iHeartMedia, the Game Show Network, and Vice News and intentionally took outward measures to destroy these relationships.
- 253. Defendants intentionally interfered with Ms. Remini's economic relationship with AudioBoom by engaging in conduct that included sending disparaging letters about Ms. Remini and her podcast to the CEO of AudioBoom as well as AudioBoom's advertisers and investors, encouraging AudioBoom to end their relationship with Ms. Remini.

254. Defendants intentionally interfered with Ms. Remini's economic relationship with iHeartMedia by engaging in conduct that included: writing false and disparaging accusations about Ms. Remini and her podcast on various social media websites and twitter accounts owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants and Defendants' operatives; sending disparaging letters about Ms. Remini to iHeartMedia's executive vice president and COO, producer, podcast audio editor, and advertisers; and harassing iHeartMedia's podcast producers until they decided to end their business relationship with Ms. Remini.

255. Defendants intentionally interfered with Ms. Remini's economic relationship with the Game Show Network by engaging in conduct that included: sending disparaging and false open letters to the Game Show Network claiming that Ms. Remini is an "unhinged bigot," a "rape apologist" and someone who believes "it's not a big deal to sexually abuse women;" sending disparaging letters to the Game Show Network's advertisers, encouraging them to pull their support from the Game Show Network for airing Ms. Remini's show; and sending Defendants' operatives to the Game Show Network with false claims that they were investigating allegations of Ms. Remini's alleged abusive behavior in the workplace. Upon information and belief, Defendants intentionally interfered with Ms. Remini's economic relationship with Vice News by harassing employees and directors at Vice News and encouraging them not to work with Ms. Remini.

256. By engaging in the aforesaid conduct, and based on the policies and practices under the Fair Game banner, Defendants intended to disrupt the economic relationships with Ms. Remini and AudioBoom, iHeartMedia, the Game Show Network, and Vice News, and ID/PR or knew that the disruption of these relationships was substantially certain to occur.

257. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' malicious and intentional actions, Ms. Remini's economic relationships with AudioBoom, iHeartMedia, the Game Show Network and Vice News was indeed disrupted.

258. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' malicious and intentional actions, Ms. Remini suffered economic harm, including without limitation the loss of revenues and fees Ms. Remini would have derived from these economic relationships.

259. In addition to AudioBoom, iHeartMedia, Vice News and the Game Show Network, Defendants have intentionally interfered with and thwarted an untold number of additional business opportunities by virtue of their attack campaign against Ms. Remini, which includes the

incessant harassment of any and all individuals and business entities who align themselves with or seek to do business with Ms. Remini.

- 260. Accordingly, Ms. Remini has suffered damage as a result of Defendants' intentional interference with Ms. Remini's prospective economic relations.
- 261. As such, an award of compensatory and punitive damages to Plaintiff from Defendants is justified.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for intentional interference with prospective economic advantage and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

#### **COUNT VI**

#### **DEFAMATION & DEFAMATION PER SE**

- 262. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 263. Since 2013, and continuing to this day, Defendants knowingly and willingly published, or caused to be published, false and defamatory statements about Ms. Remini. These false and defamatory statements include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Statements accusing Ms. Remini of inciting hate crimes:
    - i. A January 31, 2023 article on standleague.org, a website owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants, which claims that Ms. Remini's "hate speech has resulted in violent and deadly attacks on innocents[.]"
    - ii. An August 4, 2022 article on standleague.org which fraudulently claims that: "In 2019, a man incited by Leah Remini's hate speech murdered a 24-year-old Scientologist, Aaron Yeh, outside the Australasian headquarters of the Church."
    - iii. An April 13, 2023 tweet from Hate Monitor, a twitter account owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants that falsely claims that Leah Remini "is responsible for hundreds of threats and multiple acts of violent hate crime against Scientologists."
    - A tweet dated April 18, 2023 from Hate Monitor, a twitter account owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants that falsely stated "On January 3, 2019, a man incited by Leah Remini's hate speech murdered a 24-year-old

- Scientologist. @LeahRemini has blood on her hands." The tweet then refers readers to Scientology-run standleague.org.
- iv. An undated article on leahreminithefacts.org, a website owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants which falsely alleges: "Remini's series generated unprecedented waves of hate and threats against Scientologists, the Church and its leadership in the hashtag name of #LeahRemini and/or her TV show and its incendiary bigotry, including threats of bombings, arson, assassinations and mass murder."
- b. Statements on social media that Ms. Remini supports rapists:
  - i. In March of 2023 alone, twitter accounts owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants have posted over 247 false and fraudulent photoshopped images of Ms. Remini wearing apparel that says, "I love rapists."
  - ii. A January 29, 2023 statement on standleague.org, a website controlled and operated by Defendants and Defendants' operatives, that fraudulently claims that Ms. Remini is a "rape apologist" and "obviously agrees with the actions of these men [accused of rape] or feels that 'it's not a big deal' to sexually abuse women[.]""
  - iii. An April 10, 2023 tweet from Hate Monitor, a twitter account owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants that falsely claims that "@LeahRemini is a bigot who inspires violent hate crimes and defends rapists."
- c. Statements on social media and Defendant-run websites claiming that Ms. Remini is a religious bigot who has inspired praise of Hitler:
  - i. A February 2, 2022 article on standleague.org entitled "As the World Remembers the Holocaust, Bigot Leah Remini Inspires Praise of Hitler."
  - ii. A January 29, 2023 statement on standleague.org that maliciously and fraudulently claims that Ms. Remini is "a vicious, lying, narcissistic, deranged, demented and dangerous bigot."
- d. That Ms. Remini had her 18-year-old daughter involuntarily committed to a psychiatric facility, including:
  - i. A March 9, 2023 statement made on a Twitter account operated by a Scientology operative, at the behest of Defendants, that states: "I wonder

where Sofia, @leahremini daughter is? Last time she was in NY and came back to LA and Leah sent her to a psych and then back to NY."

- 264. These false and defamatory statements were published on various social media, and in a seemingly unending stream continue to be released and/or republished on other social media, for public consumption as well as to third parties with whom Ms. Remini has or had business relationships. Indeed, Defendants' defamatory statements are continuously distributed via so many social media outlets, many of them with intentionally concealed identities, it would be impossible for her to track each one.
- 265. Defendants published these false and defamatory statements to third parties with actual knowledge that the statements were false or with reckless disregard for whether these statements were false, as part of Scientology's campaign to destroy Ms. Remini's personal and professional life.
- 266. Defendants knew that publishing the statements about Ms. Remini on the internet would have a damaging impact on Plaintiff's credibility and reputation.
- 267. These defamatory statements were not name calling or rhetorical hyperbole but constitute specific acts and factual allegations that are actionable.
- 268. These defamatory statements falsely associated and continue to falsely associate Ms. Remini with things viewed as abhorrent in the community.
- 269. Defendants' decade-long crusade of abuses and attacks against Ms. Remini, which continues to present day and is expected to continue into the future without judicial action, including the defamatory statements made by Defendants or Defendants' operatives, has subjected Ms. Remini to public contempt, ridicule, and disgrace.
- 270. The defamatory statements made by Defendants or Defendants' operatives have also injured Ms. Remini in her profession as an actress and businesswoman and have caused in the past and, upon information and belief, continue to cause her to lose business relationships and business opportunities.
- 271. The publication of such defamatory statements at the behest of Defendants has in fact caused damages to Ms. Remini resulting in loss of revenue and lost business opportunities and is expected to cause her to lose such revenue and opportunities in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for defamation and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

#### **COUNT VII**

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272. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

- 273. Since 2013, and continuing to this day, Defendants knowingly and willingly published, or caused to be published, various statements about Ms. Remini that are not true or substantially true and which could reasonably be construed as defamatory. These false statements include but are not limited to:
  - a. Statements accusing Ms. Remini of inciting hate crimes:
    - i. A January 31, 2023 article on standleague.org, a website owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants, which claims that Ms. Remini's "hate speech has resulted in violent and deadly attacks on innocents[.]"
    - ii. An August 4, 2022 article on standleague.org which fraudulently claims that: "In 2019, a man incited by Leah Remini's hate speech murdered a 24-year-old Scientologist, Aaron Yeh, outside the Australasian headquarters of the Church."
    - iii. An April 13, 2023 tweet from Hate Monitor, a twitter account owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants that falsely claims that Leah Remini "is responsible for hundreds of threats and multiple acts of violent hate crime against Scientologists."
    - iv. A tweet dated April 18, 2023 from Hate Monitor, a twitter account owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants that falsely stated "On January 3, 2019, a man incited by Leah Remini's hate speech murdered a 24-year-old Scientologist. @LeahRemini has blood on her hands." The tweet then refers readers to Scientology-run standleague.org.
    - v. An undated article on leahreminithefacts.org, a website owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants which falsely alleges: "Remini's series generated unprecedented waves of hate and threats against Scientologists, the Church and its leadership in the hashtag name of #LeahRemini and/or her TV show and its incendiary bigotry, including threats of bombings, arson, assassinations and mass murder."
  - b. Statements on social media that Ms. Remini supports rapists:

- i. In March of 2023 alone, twitter accounts owned, operated and/or controlled by Defendants have posted over 247 false and fraudulent photoshopped images of Ms. Remini wearing apparel that says, "I love rapists."
- ii. A January 29, 2023 statement on standleague.org, a website controlled and operated by Defendants and Defendants' operatives, that fraudulently claims that Ms. Remini is a "rape apologist" and "obviously agrees with the actions of these men [accused of rape] or feels that 'it's not a big deal' to sexually abuse women[.]""
- iii. An April 10, 2023 tweet from Hate Monitor, a twitter account owned, operated, and/or controlled by Defendants that falsely claims that "@LeahRemini is a bigot who inspires violent hate crimes and defends rapists."
- c. Statements on social media and Defendant-run websites claiming that Ms. Remini is a religious bigot who has inspired praise of Hitler:
  - i. A February 2, 2022 article on standleague.org entitled "As the World Remembers the Holocaust, Bigot Leah Remini Inspires Praise of Hitler."
  - ii. A January 29, 2023 statement on standleague.org that maliciously and fraudulently claims that Ms. Remini is "a vicious, lying, narcissistic, deranged, demented and dangerous bigot."
  - d. That Ms. Remini had her 18-year-old daughter involuntarily committed to a psychiatric facility, including:
    - i. A March 9, 2023 statement made on a Twitter account operated by a Scientology operative, at the behest of Defendants, that states: "I wonder where Sofia, @leahremini daughter is? Last time she was in NY and came back to LA and Leah sent her to a psych and then back to NY."
- 274. The above statements were published on social media for public consumption and have created the implications that Ms. Remini is responsible for inciting murder and other hate crimes, that she "loves" rapists and supports sexual abuse, that she is abusive to her daughter, and that she is a Holocaust supporter and religious bigot.
- 275. These challenged statements reasonably create implications that are not true or substantially true.

- 276. The implications drawn from the challenged statements convey the assertions of objective facts and not opinions.
- 277. Plaintiffs' interpretation of Defendants' statements is reasonable and has created an overall impression of Ms. Remini in the manners described.
- 278. These challenged statements could reasonably be deemed as defamatory and such statements have injured Ms. Remini's personal and professional reputation as detailed herein.
- 279. These defamatory statements and implications falsely associated and continue to falsely associate Ms. Remini with things viewed as abhorrent in the community.
- 280. Defendants' decade-long crusade of abuses and attacks against Ms. Remini, including the defamatory statements made by Defendants or Defendants' operatives, has subjected Ms. Remini to public contempt, ridicule, and disgrace.
- 281. The defamatory statements and implications made by Defendants or Defendants' operatives have also injured Ms. Remini in her profession as an actress and businesswoman and have caused her to lose business relationships and business opportunities and is expected to cause her to lose such relationships and opportunities in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for defamation by implication and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

# **COUNT VIII**

#### **FALSE LIGHT**

- 282. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 283. Since 2013, and continuing to this day, Defendants knowingly and willingly published, or caused to be published statements about Ms. Remini, as set forth herein, on social media for public consumption.
- 284. Such statements and negative publicity have placed Ms. Remini before the public in a false light that is and would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 285. Defendants published these false statements to third parties with actual knowledge that the statements were false or with reckless disregard for whether these statements were false, as part of Scientology's campaign to destroy Ms. Remini's personal and professional life.

286. Defendants knew that publishing the statements about Ms. Remini on the internet would have a damaging impact on Plaintiff's credibility and reputation.

- 287. These false statements that placed Ms. Remini in a false light before the public were not name calling or rhetorical hyperbole but constitute specific acts and factual allegations that are actionable.
- 288. These false statements falsely associated Ms. Remini with things viewed as abhorrent in the community.
- 289. Defendants' decade long crusade of abuses and attacks against Ms. Remini, including the false statements made by Defendants or Defendants' operatives, has subjected Ms. Remini to public contempt, ridicule, and disgrace.
- 290. The false statements made by Defendants or Defendants' operatives have also injured Ms. Remini in her profession as an actress and businesswoman and have caused her to lose business relationships and business opportunities.
- 291. The publication of such false statements at the behest of Defendants has in fact caused damages to Ms. Remini resulting in loss of revenue and lost business opportunities.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants for defamation and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

#### **COUNT IX**

# **DECLARATORY JUDGMENT- CALIFORNIA CODE CIVIL PROCEDURE § 1060**

- 292. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege all allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 293. Defendants maintain and implement a policy of abuse and attack against former members who speak out against Scientology.
- 294. Upon departure from Scientology, an individual should not be stalked, harassed, targeted, or made to fear for their life or livelihood.
- 295. Religious freedoms do not permit criminal or tortious behavior. Nor may so-called religious doctrine or directives shelter the commission of crimes or torts against former members who exercise their rights to disassociate from or criticize an organization to which they once belonged.

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296. The abuse leveled at Ms. Remini is part of a broader policy and practice of intimidation. Ms. Remini is just one of thousands of former-Scientologists who Defendants have terrorized as part of their systemic practice of Fair Game.

- 297. The implementation of the Suppressive Persons policy as it pertains to Ms. Remini or any other former member or perceived critic of Scientology is unlawful.
- 298. Therefore, Plaintiff Remini seeks a judicial declaration that the practice of Suppressive Persons operations are unlawful and should be ceased immediately.
- 299. Plaintiff Remini is in doubt as to her rights and privileges with respect to the crimes and torts being committed against her by Defendants and is entitled to have such doubt removed.
- 300. There is a bona fide, actual, present, and practical need for a declaration of the rights of Ms. Remini with respect to the practice of attacks against Suppressive Persons, as described above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LEAH REMINI, requests that the Court enter a declaratory judgment that Defendants be prohibited from implementing the Suppressive Persons attack policy so that she is free from tortious and criminal conduct and award such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

# PUNITIVE DAMAGES SOUGHT AGAINST DEFENDANTS & RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Defendants are, based on information and belief, religious corporations, organized under the laws of California, and therefore, are afforded the protection of Code of Civil Procedure §425.14. Upon such time as appropriate, the Plaintiff expressly reserves the right to file a Motion to Amend the instant Complaint in order to allege facts sufficient to constitute punitive damages against Defendants in accordance with Civil Code §3294.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

- 1. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of all issues in this action that are triable;
- 2. For a declaratory judgment that Scientology has violated the law;
- 3. For injunctive relief requiring Scientology to cease and desist its harassment, defamation, and other unlawful conduct and striking all Suppressive Person and Fair Game policies, directives and OSA Network Orders;
  - 4. For compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial;

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1	5. Damages for the disruption of contractual relationships and lost busines	SS	
2	opportunities in an amount to be proven at trial;		
2	6. Punitive damages and damages for severe emotional and mental distress in a	ın	
3	amount to be proven at trial;		
	7. Liquidated damages for any future violations as to Ms. Remini; and		
4	8. For such other relief as is just and proper		
5	Dated: August 1, 2023		
6	Respectfully submitted,		
_	Seth Lehrman, Esq.		
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	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		