

EXHIBIT A

WESLEY M. MULLEN

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November 13, 2017

Michael Lee
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VIA EMAIL ONLY

Re: Hughes v. Benjamin, No. 17 CV 6493 (RJS)

Mr. Lee,

I am U.S. litigation counsel to Mr. Carl Benjamin, a U.K. citizen resident in the U.K. My client is a defendant in the captioned action filed by Akilah Hughes.

Ms. Hughes's lawsuit is an obvious attempt at viewpoint-based political retaliation; its claims are meritless based on Plaintiff's own admissions; the Court lacks jurisdiction over my client; your purported service of process is invalid; and an affirmation you filed with the Court contains material false statements. I write to advise that if you or your client elect to proceed with this action, mine will seek sanctions against client and counsel, as well as attorney fees and costs.

* * *

The Complaint is a transparently abusive reprisal against opinions that differ from Plaintiff's own. By its terms, the Complaint targets an outspoken political opponent. See Complaint (ECF Doc. No. 1) at ¶ 3 ("Defendants, particularly Benjamin, have been habitually outspoken against many of the political positions for which Hughes campaigns.")

The pretextual claims of copyright infringement are utterly defeated by Plaintiff's admission that the act of purported copyright infringement was "an attempt to discredit [Plaintiff] and her political positions" Id. The Complaint describes classic transformative use, in the form of political speech.

Our courts and our Constitution disfavor actions brought for the purpose of chilling political speech. See U.S. Const. amend. I; Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(b)(1). The Copyright Act expressly allows defendants in abusive actions to recover attorney fees and costs. 17 U.S.C. § 505.

* * *

Notwithstanding the action's failures on the merits, Mr. Benjamin is not subject to personal jurisdiction in the United States. He

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owns no property in New York; he has no investments here; and he lacks sufficient contacts with New York to allow him to be haled before our courts. Engaging in political speech in Europe does not render the foreign speaker subject to personal jurisdiction in New York. And in any event, the Complaint alleges no facts that would permit the Court to draw a different conclusion. See Complaint (ECF Doc. No. 1) at ¶ 6 (alleging conclusion that "Defendants are subject to the Court's jurisdiction because they have committed the acts complained of herein in this District and do business in this District"); cf. id. ¶ 10 (alleging that Benjamin is a British citizen residing in the U.K.).

Even if Mr. Benjamin were subject to the in personam jurisdiction of the Court, there has been no valid service of process. Mr. Benjamin does not reside at the address to which you directed the Clerk to send process by FedEx. (ECF Doc. No. 7.) Mr. Benjamin therefore has not been served. If he had, the attempt at service would still be invalid because the mailing did not require a "signed receipt," Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(f)(2)(c), and because it has not been proved by "a receipt signed by the addressee," Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(l); Dev. Specialists, Inc. v Li, No. 16 CV 8237 (KMK), 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 74135 at *36-37 (S.D.N.Y. May 10, 2017) (finding mailing without signature confirmation insufficient to effect service of process under Rule 4(f)(2)); see FedEx Confirmation (attached) ("NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED").

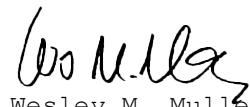
Paragraph 4 of your affirmation filed October 4, 2017, (ECF Doc. No. 8-1) represents to the Court and to the Clerk that Mr. Benjamin has been properly served. In light of the foregoing, that sworn statement is inarguably false. I demand that you so inform the Court.

I also caution you that if you elect to pursue further attempts at service of process upon my client, they must follow mandatory procedures under the Hague Convention for Service Abroad. Volkswagenwerk AG v. Schlunk, 486 U.S. 694, 699 (1988).

* * *

Kindly let me know by Thanksgiving whether you intend to proceed. If required to appear, my client will seek attorney fees, costs, and sanctions as permitted under the Copyright Act, under Rule 11, and otherwise.

Regards,



Wesley M. Mullen

encl.



November 2, 2017

Dear Customer:

The following is the proof-of-delivery for tracking number **810833269760**.

Delivery Information:

Status:	Delivered	Delivered to:	Residence
Signed for by:	Signature release on file	Delivery location:	SWINDON
Service type:	FedEx International Priority	Delivery date:	Sep 11, 2017 09:56
Special Handling:	Deliver Weekday		
	Residential Delivery		

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Shipping Information:

Tracking number:	810833269760	Ship date:	Sep 7, 2017
		Weight:	1.0 lbs/0.5 kg

Recipient:
SWINDON GB

Shipper:
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