



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

ANTON POSTOLNIKOV,)
)
Plaintiff,)

v.)

Case No. 2021 CH 2636

JOHN DOE NO. 1, OWNER OF)
WWW.CHECHNYAFREE.RU; JOHN DOE NO. 2,)
OWNER OF WWW.CLUB-TM.RU, JOHN DOE)
3, OWNER OF WWW.COMPROMAT.RU; JOHN)
NO. 4, OWNER OF WWW.COMPROMAT.)
GROUP; JOHN DOE NO. 5, OWNER OF)
WWW.CRIMERUSSIA.INFO; JOHN DOE NO. 6,)
OWNER OF WWW.FTTC.COM.UA, JOHN DOE)
NO. 7, OWNER OF WWW.INTERNETLITE.)
ORG, JOHN DOE NO. 8, OWNER OF)
WWW.MOBILE-NEWS.NET, JOHN DOE NO. 9,)
OWNER OF WWW.NOVOSTIUA.NEWS,)
JOHN DOE NO. 10, OWNER OF)
WWW.RENOME.INFO, JOHN DOE NO. 11,)
OWNER OF WWW.TVESTI.RU,)

Calendar 15

DEFAULT JUDGMENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE coming to be heard on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment, the Court being duly advised in the premises,

THIS COURT FINDS:

1. Plaintiff's Complaint was filed on May 28, 2021 alleging defamatory and extortionate conduct by Defendants against Plaintiff by use of purportedly adverse information published on the internet on websites owned by Defendants.
2. Plaintiff is was and is unable to name the Defendants personally, given that the Defendants create anonymity by use of anonymous emails and websites.
3. Beginning in 2021, Plaintiff became aware of a series of articles on the internet containing false allegations against himself.

4. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 1 is the owner of a website, www.chechnyafree.ru that operates from the Russian Federation using the registrar regtime.rtl and the website host Cloudflare in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On or about March 30, 2021, Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 1 published an article with the title "Anton Postolynikov and His Criminal Fintech Projects" with the false allegation that Plaintiff tendered "false statements" to "tax authorities," criminally evading "payment of value added tax" and fraud in connection with a failed business." The article has a title of "Антон Постольников и его криминальные «финтех-проекты»" on the website www.chechnyafree.ru. The allegations were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 1 knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 1 acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

5. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 2, is the owner and operator of www.club-tmru, a website that operates from the Russian Federation using the registrar active.ru and the website host nsl.nwo.ru in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On or about March 30, 2021, Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 2 published an article on the www.club-tmru website that was substantially the same article as posted by JOHN DOE NO. 1 on the website www.chechnyafree.ru. The article has a title of "Антон Постольников и его криминальные финтех-проекты" on club-tm.ru. The allegations in the article were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 2 knew the

statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 2 acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

6. Defendant DOE NO. 3 is the owner and operator of www.crompromat.group, a website operating in the Russian Federation using the registrar TLD Registrar Solutions Ltd. based in Hong Kong, People's Republic of China, and the website Cloudflare in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On or about March 30, 2021, Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 3 published an article on the www.crompromat.group website that was substantially the same article as posted by JOHN DOE NO. 1 on the website www.chechnyafree.ru. The article has a web address of <https://compromat.group/main/economics/41273-anton-postolnikov-i-ego-kriminalnye-finteh-proekty.html>. The allegations in the article were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 3 knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 3 acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

7. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 4 is the owner and operator of WWW.COMPROMAT.RU a website operating from the Russian Federation using the registrar reg.ru and the website host nic.ru in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On March 30, 2021, Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 4 published on that website the same article as published by JOHN DOE NO. 3. The

article has a web address of Родственники Александра Смирнова хорошо устроились.
- Компромат.Ру / Compromat.Ru.

The allegations in the article were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 4 knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 4 acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

8. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 5, OWNER OF WWW.CRIMERUSSIA.INFO operates said website from the Russian Federation using the registrar Cloud Group Ltd. and the website host Cloudflare in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On or about March 30, 2021, Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 5 published an article on that website stating that Anton Postolnikov was on an "international wanted list" for "a criminal case" and that he was a "fraudster" and had engaged in tax evasion amount to tens of millions of rubles. The article had a web address of БЫВШИЙ заместитель министра юстиции Александр Смирнов был прикрытием - Преступная Россия. The statements in the article were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 5 knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 5, acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

9. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 6, OWNER OF WWW.FTTC.COM.USA operates said website from Ukraine using the registrar ua.nic.au and the website host Cloudflare in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On

March 23, 2021, Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 6 published an article stating that Anton Postolnikov "hides from the Russian authorities in America" for operating a company which "either did not pay money for cars, or paid only a part, but received a VAT refund in the sum of 11 million rubles," that Postolnikov was "wanted for fraud" and that "for fraud and other machinations Postelnikov faces up to 15 years in prison." The article has a web address of

<http://www.fttc.com.ua/2021/03/postolnikov-anton-aleksandrovich-bezhal-ot-ugolovki-za-afery-v-rf-skryvshis-v-kalifornii/>. The statements in the article were false, and

Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 6 knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 6 acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

10. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 7, OWNER OF WWW.INTERNETELITE.ORG operates said website from Ukraine using the registrar Epic.Inc. and the website host Cloudfare in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On about March 23, 2021, JOHN DOE NO. 7 published an article in which it was alleged that Anton Postolnikov was "wanted for fraud," and that that in operating a car rental company "Postehlikov did not pay money for them, or paid only a part - he received from the state a VAT refund of 11 million rubles," and that Postolnikov "in Russia he faces up to 15 years." The article can be found at

<https://internetelite.org/nsk/sudimyj-anton-postolnikov-i-tuchnye-pastbishha-rossii-poche-mu-aferisty-lyubyat-rodinu.html> The statements were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE

NO. 7 knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 7 acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

11. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 8, OWNER OF WWW.MOBILE-NEWS.NET operates said website from Ukraine using the registrar namecheap.com and the website host Cloudflare in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On or about March 23, 2021, JOHN DOE NO. 8 published an article in which it was alleged that Anton Postolnikov was "wanted for fraud," and that that in operating a car rental company Postolnikov "did not pay money for them, or paid only a part he received from the state a VAT refund of 11 million rubles," and that Postolnikov "faces up to 15 years." The article can be found at <https://mobile-news.net/critic/anton-postolnikov-skrylsya-v-ssha-ot-tyuremnogo-sroka-v-rf-istoriya-plemyannika-eks-zamministra-yusticzii-smirnova.html>. The statements were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 8, knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 8, acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

12. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 9, OWNER OF WWW.NOVOSTIUA.NEWS operates said website from Ukraine using the registrar Name.com Inc. and the website host Name.com Inc. in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On or about March 23, 2021, JOHN DOE NO. 9 published an article in which

it was alleged that Anton Postolnikov was "wanted for fraud," and had fled Russia to avoid arrest on criminal charges. The article was published at [Сколько украл у России мошенник сбежавший в США Постољников Антон Александрович: цифры шокируют • Новостной портал NOVOSTIUA.news](#). The allegations in the article were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 9 knew the statements were false when made. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 9 acted with an intent to harm and extort monies from Plaintiff.

13. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 11, OWNER OF WWW.TIVESTI.RU operates said website from the Russian Federation using the registrar r101-ru and the website host jino.ru in order to hide Defendant's identity. Based upon the declaration of Richard Ehrenreich submitted to the Court, the website can be viewed through use of the Internet on computers and other electronic devices with internet access in Cook County Illinois. On or about January 29, 2021, JOHN DOE NO. 11, published an article in which it was alleged that Anton Postolnikov "escaped to America from a huge prison term in Russia" and that that in operating a car rental company Postolnikov "did not pay money for them, or paid only a part - he received from the state a VAT refund of 11 million rubles." The article was published at

<https://tvesti.ru/plemiannik-byvshego-zamministra-usticii-rf-anton-postolnikov-sbejal-v-s-sha-ot-ogromnogo-turemnogo-sroka-v-rossii.html>. The statements were false, and Defendant JOHN DOE NO.11 knew the statements were false when made, Defendant JOHN DOE NO.11 acted with an intent to ham and extort monies from Plaintiff.

14. In May 2021, Plaintiff was informed by email that removal of the articles from the websites "on a commercial basis" was possible. Upon further inquiry with the email

sender, Plaintiff was informed that a payment of money was required to obtain removal of the articles.

15. Based upon similarities in phrasing and content, which is at times identical across the articles, the articles complained of have in common source acting with the intent to extort monies from the Plaintiff in return for removal of the articles.

JURISDICTION

This Court finds personal jurisdiction over the claims made.

Under the Illinois long-arm statute, the conduct of a tortious act in Illinois creates personal jurisdiction for claims based upon that act. 735 ILCS 5/2-209(2). The Court finds that the publication was purposeful towards residents of Illinois. Plaintiff does business in Illinois and the Defendants have published the offending articles attacking Plaintiff's business reputation on websites available in Illinois and they sought to extort Plaintiff in exchange for their removal. Defendants had reason to know that the harm they created from the published articles would be felt in Illinois, and therefore, jurisdiction in Illinois is proper. When a defendant purposefully causes the reading of defamatory material in Illinois, the author submits to personal jurisdiction of an Illinois court. See, e.g., *Wesly v. Nat'l Hemophilia Found.*, 2020 IL App (3d) 170569, 439 Ill. Dec. 481, 148 N.E.3d 221 (emails) and cases cited therein.

Given that Defendants engaged in a worldwide scheme against Plaintiff, and Plaintiff does business in Cook County, this Court cannot find that the publication within Cook County was "random, isolated, or fortuitous" and instead must find that it was purposeful in effecting the scheme. The assertion of personal jurisdiction is proper.

SERVICE

In an Order dated August 27, 2021 this Court granted service by email and publication, given the anonymity practiced by Defendants from foreign countries. That Order is adopted in full. Plaintiff has submitted sufficient evidence of service by publication and by email. The Court finds that the Defendants have been served and personal jurisdiction exists over the Defendant.

JUDGMENT

Default Judgment is granted in favor of Plaintiff against all Defendants on **Count II** of the Complaint alleging Defamation per se. Plaintiff has established the defendants made false statements concerning the Plaintiff, that there was an unprivileged publication of the defamatory statements to a third party by the Defendants, and that the Plaintiff was damaged.

Counts I and III of the Complaint are voluntarily dismissed.

RELIEF

Plaintiff has demonstrated a right to injunctive relief. To be entitled to a permanent injunction, a party must demonstrate (1) a clear and ascertainable right in need of protection, (2) that he or she will suffer irreparable harm if the injunction is not granted, (3) that no adequate remedy at law exists. *Vaughn v. City of Carbondale*, 2016 IL 119181, ¶ 44, 50 N.E.3d 643, 652. In the case at bar, Plaintiff has a protectable interest in being free of defamation practiced as an integral part of an ongoing extortion scheme. Plaintiff will continue to suffer irreparable harm loss of reputation, customers, loss of goodwill, loss of business contacts from the defamation and further because Defendants are acting in a “continuing pattern.” See, *R.L. Polk & Co. v. Ryan*, 296 Ill. App. 3d 132, 142, 694 N.E.2d 1027, 1034 (4th Dist. 1998). Plaintiff has demonstrated that he has no remedy at law—his desire is for the defamation to stop, not to seek damages. The relief of a permanent injunction is therefore appropriate.

UPON THESE FINDINGS, THE COURT ENTERS JUDGMENT AS FOLLOWS:

1. A default judgment is entered against Defendants JOHN DOE NO. 1, OWNER OF WWW.CHECHNYAFREE.RU; JOHN DOE NO. 2, OWNER OF WWW.CLUB-TM.RU, JOHN DOE 3, OWNER OF WWW.COMPRMAT.RU; JOHN NO. 4, OWNER OF WWW.COMPRMAT. GROUP; JOHN DOE NO. 5, OWNER OF WWW.CRIMERUSSIA.INFO; JOHN DOE NO. 6, OWNER OF WWW.FTTC.COM.UA, JOHN DOE NO. 7, OWNER OF WWW.INTERNETLITE.ORG, JOHN DOE NO. 8, OWNER OF WWW.MOBILE-NEWS.NET, JOHN DOE NO. 9, OWNER OF WWW.NOVOSTIUA.NEWS, AND JOHN DOE NO. 11, OWNER OF WWW.TVESTI.RU on Count II of the Complaint.
1. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 1, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article “Антон Постольников и его криминальные «финтех-проекты»” on the website www.chechnyafree.ru or by any other means. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 1, is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.
2. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 2, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with the title of “Антон Постольников и его криминальные «финтех-проекты»” published on club-tm.ru or by any other means. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 2 is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.
3. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 3, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with a web address of

<https://compromat.group/main/economics/41273-anton-postolnikov-i-ego-kriminalnye-finteh-proekty.html> on the website www.compromat.group or by any other means.

Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 3 is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.

4. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 4, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with a web address of

<https://compromat.group/main/economics/41273-anton-postolnikov-i-ego-kriminalnye-finteh-proekty.html> on the website www.compromat.group or by any other means.

Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 4, is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.

5. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 5, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with a web address of Бывший заместитель министра юстиции Александр Смирнов был прикрытием - Преступная Россия on the website www.crimrussia.info or by any other means. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 5, is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.

6. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 6, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with a web address of

<http://www.fttc.com.ua/2021/03/postolnikov-anton-aleksandrovich-bezhal-ot-ugolovki-za-afery-v-rf-skryvshis-v-kalifornii/> on the website www.fttc.com or by any other means.

Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 6, is further enjoined from publishing future articles

containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.

7. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 7, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with a web address of <https://internetelite.org/nsk/sudimyj-anton-postolnikov-i-tuchnye-pastbishha-rossii-poche-mu-aferisty-lyubyat-rodinu.html> on the website www.internetelite.org or by any other means. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 7, is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.
8. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 8, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with a web address of <https://mobile-news.net/critic/anton-postolnikov-skrylsya-v-ssha-ot-tyuremnogo-sroka-v-rf-istoriya-plemyannika-eks-zamministra-yusticzii-smirnova.html> on the website www.mobile-news.net or by any other means. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 8, is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.
9. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 9, is hereby enjoined from further publication of the article with a web address of Сколько украл у России мошенник сбежавший в США Постольников Антон Александрович: цифры шокируют • Новостной портал NOVOSTIUA.news on the website www.novostiua.news or by any other means. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 9, is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 11, is hereby enjoined

from further publication of the article with a web address of <https://tvesti.ru/plemiannik-byvshego-zamministra-usticii-rf-anton-postolnikov-sbejal-v-s-sha-ot-ogromnogo-turemnogo-sroka-v-rossii.html> on the website www.tivesti.ru or by any other means. Defendant JOHN DOE NO. 11 is further enjoined from publishing future articles containing the same false statements that have been determined to constitute defamation that are identified in the Complaint.

10. This is a final order disposing of the case.

Judge Anna M. Loftus
ENTERED:
MAR 2 2023

Anna M. Loftus
Circuit Court Judge Anna M. Loftus, No. 2102

Anthony J. Peraica & Associates, Ltd.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
5130 S. Archer Avenue
Chicago, IL 60632
773-735-1700
Attorney No.: 54011
support@peraica.com