

NO. _____

ROBERT C. PRUETT, JONATHAN M. RADER AND EDWARD MATA Plaintiffs,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	§	
	§	
V.	§	_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT
	§	
CORRIE LONG, DAVID TANG AND MICHAEL P. FLEMING & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Defendants.	§	
	§	
	§	OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

NOW COMES Robert C. Pruett, Jonathan M. Rader and Edward Mata, hereinafter called Plaintiffs, complaining of and about Corrie Long, David Tang and Michael P. Fleming & Associates, P.C., hereinafter called Defendants, and for cause of action show unto the Court the following:

DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN LEVEL

1. Plaintiffs intend that discovery be conducted under Discovery Level 2.

PARTIES AND SERVICE

2. Plaintiff, Robert C. Pruett, is an Individual whose business address is 2207 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Texas 77547.
3. The last three numbers of Robert C. Pruett's driver's license number are 321. The last three numbers of Robert C. Pruett's social security number are 325.
4. Plaintiff, Jonathan M. Rader, is an Individual whose business address is 2207

Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Texas 77547.

5. The last three numbers of Jonathan M. Rader's driver's license number are 177.

The last three numbers of Jonathan M. Rader's social security number are 220.

6. Plaintiff, Edward Mata, is an Individual whose business address is 2207 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Texas 77547.

7. The last three numbers of Edward Mata's driver's license number are 877. The last three numbers of Edward Mata's social security number are 328.

8. Defendant Corrie Long, an Individual who is a resident of Texas, may be served with process at the following address: wherever she may be found in Harris County, Texas. Service of said Defendant as described above can be effected by personal delivery.

9. Defendant David Tang, an Individual who is a resident of Texas, may be served with process at his place of employment at the following address: 440 Louisiana Street, Suite 1920, Houston, Texas 77002. Service of said Defendant as described above can be effected by certified mail, return receipt requested.

10. Defendant Michael P. Fleming & Associates, P.C., a Corporation based in Texas, is organized under the laws of the State of Texas, and service of process on the Defendant may be effected pursuant to sections 5.201 and 5.255 of the Texas Business Organizations Code, by serving the registered agent of the corporation, Michael P. Fleming at: 440 Louisiana Street, Suite 1920, Houston, Texas 77002, its registered office. Service of said Defendant as described above can be effected by certified mail, return receipt requested.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11. The subject matter in controversy is within the jurisdictional limits of this court.

12. This court has jurisdiction over the parties because Defendants are Texas

residents.

13. Venue in Harris County is proper in this cause under Section 15.002(a)(1) of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in this county.

FACTS

14. Plaintiffs are seasoned veteran police officers employed by the Galena Park Police Department in the following capacities: Robert C. Pruett – Chief of Police; Jonathan M. Rader – Administrative Sergeant; Edward Mata – patrol officer (and former detective). Defendant Corrie Long is a former probationary, i.e. “rookie” police officer with the Galena Park Police Department. During her short and stormy tenure there she was terminated for multiple policy violations by an interim police chief, rehired by Chief Pruett, and later resigned after at least two more, serious disciplinary infractions involving both policy violations and lack of clear and mature judgment. Defendant, David Tang is Defendant Long’s attorney. Defendant Michael P. Fleming & Associates, P.C. is the employer of David Tang.

15. Defendant Long, through her counsel, Defendant Tang, has released several false and inflammatory statements directed at all Plaintiffs. These statements have been in writing to the Plaintiffs’ employer, made verbally to at least one Plaintiff, and have been broadcast on television in a series of press releases and interviews given by Defendants Long and Tang. These false and inflammatory statements are meant to harass, humiliate, embarrass the Plaintiffs, Hold them out for public scorn and ridicule as well as adversely affect their current and future employment/employability. Some of the Defendants outrageous claims rise to the level of falsely accusing Plaintiff(s) of the commission of serious crimes.

16. Defendant Long knew her outrageous statements and accusations were false and

misleading at the time she made the statements. Defendant Tang knew, or reasonably should have known, that if he had exercised due diligence in investigating the underlying allegations, and perhaps spoken with Defendant Long's prior two attorneys, Greg Cagle or Albert Lee Giddens, that Defendant Long's wild accusations against the Plaintiffs were wholly without merit. Defendant, Michael P. Fleming & Associates, P.C. failed to exercise due diligence in the hiring, training and supervision of Defendant Tang in allowing Defendant Tang to attack and assail the stellar reputations of these three Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs, on information and belief, assert that Defendant Michael P. Fleming & Associates, P.C. allowed Defendant Tang to release Defendant Long's compromising photographs to the media in a weak attempt at blaming Plaintiffs for their release to bolster or bootstrap Defendant Long's claims against Plaintiffs and others.

ROBERT C. PRUETT'S CLAIM FOR DEFAMATION

17. Plaintiff Robert C. Pruett re-alleges paragraphs 14-16 above, as if fully set forth at length.

ROBERT C. PRUETT'S CLAIM FOR INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

18. Plaintiff Robert C. Pruett re-alleges paragraphs 14-16 above, as if fully set forth at length.

JONATHAN M. RADER'S CLAIM FOR DEFAMATION

19. Plaintiff Jonathan M. Rader re-alleges paragraphs 14-16 above, as if fully set forth at length.

JONATHAN M. RADER'S CLAIM FOR INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

20. Plaintiff Jonathan M. Rader re-alleges paragraphs 14-16 above, as if fully set forth

at length.

EDWARD MATA'S CLAIM FOR DEFAMATION

21. Plaintiff Edward Mata re-alleges paragraphs 14-16 above, as if fully set forth at length.

EDWARD MATA'S CLAIM FOR INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

22. Plaintiff Edward Mata re-alleges paragraphs 14-16 above, as if fully set forth at length.

DAMAGES FOR PLAINTIFF, ROBERT C. PRUETT

23. As a direct and proximate result of the occurrence made the basis of this lawsuit, Plaintiff, Robert C. Pruett, was caused to suffer great embarrassment, humiliation, scorn and public ridicule, and to incur the following damages:

- A. Loss of earning capacity which will, in all probability, be incurred in the future;
- B. Mental anguish in the past;
- C. Mental anguish in the future;

DAMAGES FOR PLAINTIFF, JONATHAN M. RADER

24. As a direct and proximate result of the occurrence made the basis of this lawsuit, Plaintiff, Jonathan M. Rader, was caused to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, scorn and public ridicule, and to incur the following damages:

- A. Loss of earning capacity which will, in all probability, be incurred in the future;
- B. Mental anguish in the past;

- C. Mental anguish in the future; and

DAMAGES FOR PLAINTIFF, EDWARD MATA

25. As a direct and proximate result of the occurrence made the basis of this lawsuit, Plaintiff, Edward Mata, was caused to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, scorn and public ridicule, and to incur the following damages:

- A. Loss of earning capacity which will, in all probability, be incurred in the future;
- B. Mental anguish in the past;
- C. Mental anguish in the future; and

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs, Robert C. Pruett, Jonathan M. Rader and Edward Mata, respectfully pray that the Defendants be cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon a final hearing of the cause, judgment be entered for the Plaintiffs against Defendants, jointly and severally, for damages in an amount within the jurisdictional limits of the Court; together with pre-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law; post-judgment interest at the legal rate, costs of court; and such other and further relief to which the Plaintiffs may be entitled at law or in equity.

Respectfully submitted,

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LAVALLE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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