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SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Petitioner,
v.

MICHAEL MARRACCINI,
Respondent.

NON-PARTY/INTERVENOR DAVID S. GINGRAS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF HIS MOTION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE, FOR SANCTIONS, ETC.

Judge Assigned: Hon. Carolyn Gold Hearing Date: October 10, 2025 Time: 1:30 P.M.

405A

I. INTRODUCTION

As everyone knows, motions for sanctions are common. And they are routinely denied. In most cases, that's fair when lawyers doth protest too much.

Dept:

This case is <u>very</u> different. To understand why, this Court needs to know about something called "Justice for Clayton" or "JFC". JFC is an online cult devoted to one single purpose – destroying the life of Petitioner Laura Owens. By extension, the JFC cult is also obsessed with destroying the career of undersigned counsel.

Those allegations may sound paranoid, if not outright delusional. Unfortunately, they are accurate and well-supported. The JFC cult operates largely on social media. The cult maintains a Twitter account (https://x.com/ClaytonsJustice) which has posted nearly 6,000 times about Ms. Owens in the last two years. The cult also maintains an Instagram account (https://www.instagram.com/justiceforclaytonofficial) which is filled with vile, cruel, disgusting personal attacks against Ms. Owens, her family, undersigned counsel, and anyone who dares express the slightest degree of support for her.

The JFC cult thrives on inhumane cruelty. One of their favorite pleasures is attacking Ms. Owens' physical appearance. The sick individual operating the JFC Instagram account routinely posts images (hundreds of times each week) depicting Ms. Owens as a hideously deformed creature (Gollum, from Lord of the Rings).





What does this have to do with the issue of sanctions? Here's what – Respondent's counsel, Omar Serrato, is a prominent supporter of, and participant in, the JFC cult. More than that, Mr. Serrato is also friends with, and frequently collaborates with, a key cult leader and instigator named Lauren Neidigh. Below is a recent photo of Ms. Neidigh and Mr. Serrato appearing together at an event in Arizona.

LAUREN NEIDIGH & OMAR SERRATO



REPLY IN SUPPORT OF DAVID GINGRAS' MOTION TO INTERVENE, FOR SANCTIONS, ETC.

If the name Lauren Neidigh sounds familiar, it should. On July 11, 2025, two days after this case was filed, Ms. Neidigh filed a "media" request to broadcast this entire case. This Court denied that request the same day it was made (Ms. Neidigh is not associated with any legitimate media outlet; she is simply a YouTuber like Mr. Serrato).

The friendship between Ms. Neidigh and Mr. Serrato is *not* the reason why sanctions are appropriate. Rather, sanctions are appropriate because Mr. Serrato filed a groundless pleading (his Motion to Disqualify) which contained false and disparaging statements about the undersigned, made solely to harass. But there's more.

At the time that motion was filed, Mr. Serrato knew it served no legitimate purpose. Mr. Serrato knew the attorney/client relationship with Ms. Owens was voluntarily terminated, even though there was no ethical requirement to do so. The relationship was terminated, in part, to keep this matter simple, and to ensure the parties (and the Court) would not waste time dealing with unnecessary collateral disputes.

But Mr. Serrato and Ms. Neidigh need collateral disputes. Why? Because collateral disputes provide content for Ms. Neidigh's YouTube videos, and every new video means more money. And that is exactly what has occurred. Ms. Neidigh has released *hours* of videos talking about this case and gloating about how Mr. Serrato "roasted" and "embarrassed" the undersigned in his pleadings, including his Motion to Disqualify. In these videos, Ms. Neidigh repeats every false and defamatory statement contained in Mr. Serrato's pleadings, while soliciting money for her efforts.



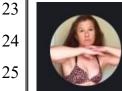
In addition to disparaging Ms. Owens and the undersigned, Ms. Neidigh has posted videos praising Mr. Serrato for his valiant "battle" against Ms. Owens in this case.

In his opposition, Mr. Serrato never denies collaborating with Ms. Neidigh to attack Ms. Owens and to further the JFC cult's goals. Instead, he attempts to downplay the issue, suggesting, "Gingras's [sic] theory that Mr. Serrato filed the motion to disqualify to create new YouTube content is unsupported and unreasonable. Serrato filed one motion on a serious issue *and has not created any content related to Owens or Gingras since entering this case in August 2025.*" Opp. at 18:10–12 (emphasis added).

This argument misses the point – regardless of whether Mr. Serrato has paused his YouTube career, his long-time collaborator, Ms. Neidigh, has not. Instead, she continues creating new content about this case virtually every single day. Because Ms. Neidigh keeps posting the same disparaging content Mr. Serrato previously did, their plan is obvious – they intend to use this case as a platform for generating and publishing false and defamatory statements in pleadings (which are privileged and protected) so Ms. Neidigh can then profit by republishing those lies on her YouTube channel.

While that claim might sound paranoid in any other context, the Court must understand – Ms. Neidigh has demonstrated a willingness to do absolutely anything, legal or illegal, to attack, defame, and harass both Ms. Owens and the undersigned. She has engaged in such conduct nearly every day for almost two years.

Again, examples are too numerous to include them all, so just consider this – Ms. Neidigh recently created a social media profile <u>using the name "David Gingras" accompanied by a photo of undersigned counsel's face Photoshopped onto Ms. Owens' body</u>. Using that account, she spends hours each day posting comments *in the name of "David Gingras"* including this fine work of poetry:



David Gingras 4:58 AM David's brain is smoother than a porn star's butthole

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Is Mr. Serrato liable for the criminal conduct of his friend, Ms. Neidigh? He will claim he is not. But when two parties conspire to engage in unlawful conduct, both may be held liable for the other's illegal acts. See Prakashpalan v. Engstrom, Lipscomb & Lack, 223 Cal.App.4th 1105, 1136 (Cal. App. 2014) (noting in a civil conspiracy, "each member may be held jointly liable as a tortfeasor, even though he or she may not have participated directly in the underlying tort.")

The truth is this: there is no question Mr. Serrato filed a groundless pleading which contains knowingly false and disparaging statements. There is no question he did so for no valid reason (because he knew the attorney/client relationship was voluntarily terminated before the motion was filed).

Within days, that frivolous pleading was turned into a lengthy YouTube video by Mr. Serrato's close friend and co-conspirator, Ms. Neidigh. Given the history of extreme hostility shown by both Mr. Serrato and Ms. Neidigh towards Ms. Owens and her counsel, it is only reasonable to conclude Mr. Serrato and Ms. Neidigh intentionally conspired to abuse this Court's process by filing a groundless pleading for the sole purpose of harassment by republishing it on YouTube.

The only question is whether this Court believes this conduct is acceptable. One party (a lawyer) files a groundless pleading containing false statements. His coconspirator immediately converts the lie-filled pleading into a YouTube video.

If that conduct is acceptable, the request for sanctions should be denied.

On the other hand, if this Court believes lawyers owe a duty to honor the law and the Rules of Professional Conduct, it should send a clear message to Mr. Serrato practicing law is not the same as making YouTube videos insulting other people. YouTube may ignore its own Terms of Service, but this Court is not YouTube, and these proceedings will not be turned into a lawless social media warzone.

¹ It is both a tort and a crime in the State of California for any person to "knowingly and without consent credibly impersonate[] another actual person through or on an Internet Web site or by other electronic means for purposes of harming, intimidating, threatening, or defrauding another person" Cal. Pen. Code § 528.5(a) (emphasis added).

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II. **DISCUSSION**

The pleadings speak for themselves. As such, only a few points will be mentioned.

a. Intervention

Mr. Serrato argues this Court cannot grant leave for the undersigned to intervene. In reply, the undersigned reminds this Court Mr. Serrato filed a motion seeking to disqualify undersigned counsel. That motion was based on a lie -i.e., that undersigned counsel still currently represented Ms. Owens in this case. If that lie was true, there would be no need to intervene; sanctions could and would have been requested as Ms. Owens' current counsel.

But Mr. Serrato's representation to this Court was false. He knew the attorney/client relationship ended before his motion was filed.

He also knew the undersigned had never filed a Notice of Appearance in this case and was not Ms. Owens' counsel of record. That specific issue was discussed at length during the 66 minute phone conversation between counsel which took place on August 18, 2025 – five days before the disqualification motion was filed.

Given these facts, it ultimately does not matter whether this Court allows the undersigned to intervene for the limited purpose of seeking sanctions, or whether the motion is treated as filed by the undersigned as Ms. Owens' current counsel (despite this not actually being true). Either way, when a lawyer lies and files a groundless pleading, as Mr. Serrato did here, the Court has the power and the duty to impose sanctions. The exact procedural method of how that issue is raised is largely irrelevant.

b. Mr. Serrato Violated CCP § 128.5

Mr. Serrato moved to disqualify a lawyer despite knowing that lawyer had already disqualified himself. Mr. Serrato knew this because he was told so, in writing, before the current motion was filed. That fact is undisputed, or at least it should be.

Trying to distract from his misconduct, Mr. Serrato only makes matters worse by presenting MORE LIES. Specifically, on page 4, ¶ 10 of the opposition to the motion for sanctions, Mr. Serrato states:

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(10) Based on that [phone] discussion, I filed a motion to disqualify due to

- Mr. Serrato "filed a motion to disqualify due to an obvious Rule 1.7 conflict"
- Counsel *then* had a phone conversation about the issue
- Only after the motion was filed, "Gingras then said he would not continue representing Owens and sent written confirmation"

This is 100% false. It is not what occurred. Here are the actual events:

- 1.) A Zoom hearing was held in this case on August 15, 2025.
- 2.) On August 18, counsel spoke by phone for 66 minutes. During that call, Mr. Serrato urged the undersigned to discontinue representing Ms. Owens.
- 3.) On August 21, counsel again spoke by phone for 16 minutes. During that call, Mr. Serrato was told undersigned counsel no longer represented Ms. Owens and he would not represent her at trial.
- 4.) On August 21, Mr. Serrato asked the undersigned to confirm, in writing, that he no longer represented Ms. Owens.
- 5.) On August 22, the undersigned replied via email and stated: "As we discussed on the phone yesterday, I no longer represent Laura in the Marraccini DVRO matter."
- 6.) On August 25, 2025, despite knowing the attorney/client relationship was voluntarily terminated three days earlier, Mr. Serrato moved to disqualify.

If these facts do not justify sanctions, CCP § 128.5 has lost all meaning. Indeed, keep in mind – if Mr. Serrato had *not* moved to disqualify, the outcome would be the same – the undersigned would still not represent Ms. Owens, and would not appear at trial as her advocate. Further, if Mr. Serrato had not moved to disqualify, the current request for sanctions would not have been made, nor would Mr. Serrato have made his ex parte request to shorten time. All this time and effort was completely unnecessary.

If Mr. Serrato had not moved to disqualify, only one thing would have happened: Ms. Neidigh would be deprived of valuable content for her YouTube channel. That is precisely why Mr. Serrato's motion was filed.

If this conduct does not warrant sanctions, nothing does. And as noted in the motion, the safe harbor provision of the rule only applies "<u>If</u> the alleged action or tactic is the making ... of a written motion ... that can be withdrawn or appropriately corrected" CCP § 128.5(f)(1)(B) (emphasis added).

Here, the safe harbor does not apply because the harm caused by Mr. Serrato's misconduct cannot be undone by allowing him to withdraw the offending pleading. Furthermore, the misconduct is not limited to *just* the pleading itself – Mr. Serrato lied to this Court, and he did so knowing the false statements in his disqualification motion would be immediately republished on YouTube by his co-conspirator, Ms. Neidigh (during her break from using the undersigned's name to post comments about the texture of porn star's buttholes). The harm caused by that conduct has already occurred. Allowing Mr. Serrato to withdraw his motion would serve no purpose. Thus, the safe harbor does not apply, and this Court can (and should) impose significant sanctions.

c. Additional Comments

A significant portion of Mr. Serrato's opposition (pages 16–21) is devoted to downplaying his threatening YouTube videos and suggesting they do not warrant referral to the State Bar. As noted in the original motion, videos published by Mr. Serrato include fake images showing him <u>physically assaulting undersigned counsel</u>. Other videos posted by Mr. Serrato feature fake images showing <u>Ms. Owens being punched in the face</u> and crying.

Mr. Serrato's response, is, in effect: "Aww, but those are just a joke, man! No big deal! Right?"

To be clear – the reason Mr. Serrato's videos warrant referral to the State Bar is <u>not</u> because <u>he</u> perceives them as a joke. The reason is also *not* because they were interpreted as an actual, serious threat by Ms. Owens or the undersigned (they were not).

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The reasons these videos warrant discipline is because this is a domestic violence case in which one of the parties (Mr. Marraccini) is being supported by an online cult. Mr. Serrato may think violent images are merely a joke to him, but that is not the point. The point is *thousands* of people are following this case, including countless anonymous, faceless members of the JFC cult. Many of those members have displayed clear signs of significant mental illness.

In this context, the concern is *not* that Mr. Serrato thinks violent images are just a joke. The concern is some unknown member of the JFC cult could easily misconstrue these jokes as an encouragement to engage in actual violence toward Ms. Owens.

Given the current political and social climate in this country, this is entirely unacceptable. Political commentator Charlie Kirk was recently shot and killed in front of a crowd of students in Utah, likely in response to his divisive online rhetoric. Paul Pelosi, husband of former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was recently attacked and viciously beaten with a hammer in his home. And how did the son of the President of the United States respond? By laughing about it in a social media post.



In 2010, former governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin, posted an image showing several battleground states she hoped Republicans would win. That image showed "crosshairs" similar to a rifle scope covering several targets, including Tucson, Arizona. Just weeks later, a mentally ill man appeared in Tucson and shot U.S. Representative Garbielle

Giffords in the head. Rep. Giffords was severely injured, but survived. A federal judge was killed. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011 Tucson shooting

We must do more to stop political, social and legal disputes from turning violent. What one person sees as a harmless joke may easily be mistaken for encouragement, even permission, to engage in violence. For a lawyer like Mr. Serrato to fan the flames of a rabid, vicious cult with fake photos of Ms. Owens being <u>punched in the face in a domestic violence case</u>, is incomprehensible.

Ms. Owens has come to this Court seeking help and protection from a man who she claims has harmed her. Ms. Owens should not *also* have to worry that counsel for the respondent is actively encouraging people to punch her in the face, or worse.

Mr. Serrato thinks asking a litigation opponent if they "want [gun] smoke" "is not a literal promise of bodily harm", opp. at 16:20. It's just a joke. Not a "true threat". No big deal. Maybe to him it's not. But what about the angry, mentally disturbed person, sitting in their basement, following every minute of YouTube coverage posted by Mr. Serrato and Ms. Neidigh? What might that person think? What might they do?

As noted in the initial Motion to Intervene, a lawyer in Florida was recently disbarred for similar conduct. *See Florida Bar v. Leigh*, 405 So.3d 347, 353 (Fla. March 13, 2025). Are Mr. Serrato's images of Ms. Owens being punched in face funny? Just a joke? Or do they justify removing him from the legal profession?

That decision should be made by the State Bar of California and, if necessary, the California Supreme Court. This Court should ask them to make that call, *urgently*, before someone else dies.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Motion for Leave to Intervene (and for other relief) should be granted.

DATED October 7, 2025.

David S. Gingras

Intervenor/Former Counsel to Petitioner

S LAW OFFICE, PLLC

2 At the time of service I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. My business 3 address is 4802 E. Ray Road, #23-271, Phoenix, AZ 85044. 4 On October 7, 2025, I served the following documents described as REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO INTEVENE (AND OTHER RELIEF) the persons listed below: 5 SEE ATTACHED LIST 6 By United States mail: I enclosed the documents in a sealed envelope or package addressed to the persons at the addresses listed above and placed the envelope for 7 collection and mailing, following our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar 8 with this business's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited 9 in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid. I am a resident or employed in the county where 10 the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Phoenix, Arizona. 11 12 By overnight delivery: I enclosed the documents in an envelope or package provided by an overnight delivery carrier and addressed to the persons at the addresses listed 13 above. I placed the envelope or package for collection and overnight delivery at an office or a regularly utilized drop box of the overnight delivery carrier. 14 GINGRAS LAW OFFICE, PLLC 3941 E. CHANDLER BLVD., #106-243 PHOENIX, AZ 85048 By messenger service: I served the documents by placing them in an envelope or 15 package addressed to the persons at the addresses listed above and providing them to a 16 professional messenger service for service. 17 By fax transmission: Based on an agreement of the parties to accept service by fax transmission, I faxed the documents to the persons at the fax numbers listed above. No 18 error was reported by the fax machine that I used. A copy of the record of the fax transmission, which I printed out, is attached. 19 20 By e-mail or electronic transmission: Based on a court order or an agreement of the X parties to accept service by e-mail or electronic transmission, I caused the documents to 21 be sent to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed above. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the 22 transmission was unsuccessful. 23 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Arizona that the foregoing is 24 true and correct. Executed on October 7, 2025, at Phoenix, Arizona. 25 26 27 28

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PROOF OF SERVICE

	1	SERVICE LIST
GINGRAS LAW OFFICE, PLLC 3941 E. CHANDLER BLVD., #106-243 PHOENIX, AZ 85048 (480) 668-3623	2	Laura Owens laura@lauramichelleowens.com Petitioner In Pro Se
	3	
	4	
	5	Omar Serrato, Esq.
	6	office@eaglelawfirm.org THE EAGLE LAW FIRM
	7	320 North East Street, Suite 206 San Bernadino, CA 92401
	8	Attorney for Respondent Michael Marraccini
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