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11	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA	
12	COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	
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14	FRANCOIS G. CHOQUETTE,	CASE NO. RIC 538634
15	Plaintiff,	Assigned for All Purposes to the Honorable Sharon J. Waters
16	vs.	Honordore Sharon J. Waters
17 18	CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY) INTERNATIONAL, a California corporation;	NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION TO COMPEL DEPOSITION OF DONALD MYERS
19	BUILDING MANAGEMENT SERVICES, a California corporation; DAVID ALAN	Date: 8-20-10
20	DUNIGAN, an individual; KENNETH R.) SEYBOLD, an individual; MATTHEW JAMES	Time: 9:00-a.m. Dept: 2
21	BUTLER, an individual; SALVATORE MEO, and individual; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,	
22		
23	Defendants.	
24	TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:	
25	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 20, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 2 of the	
26	Riverside Superior Court, located at 4050 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92507, Defendants Church	
27	of Scientology International, Inc.; Building Management Services, Inc.; Daniel Alan Dunigan	
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(erroneously sued and served as David Alan Dunigan); Kenneth R. Seybold; Matthew James Butler and Salvatore Meo's Motion to Compel the Deposition of Donald Myers will be heard.

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Dated: July 15, 2010

LESTER & CANTRELL, LLP

BY:

Mark S. Lester David Cantrell

### **MOXON & KOBRIN**

Kendrick L. Moxon

Attorneys for Defendants, CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, INC.; BUILDING MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.; DANIEL ALAN DUNIGAN (ERRONEOUSLY SUED AND SERVED AS DAVID ALAN DUNIGAN); KENNETH R. SEYBOLD; MATTHEW JAMES BUTLER AND SALVATORE MEO

## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

### I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

Plaintiff Francois Choquette's complaint has alleged a battery occurred against him on October 26, 2008, and claims that Defendant Church of Scientology International, Inc. took actions in Los Angeles County to prevent him from protesting. Third party witness Donald Myers is an associate of Choquette as members of an anti-religious hate group which calls itself "Anonymous." Its members typically wear chilling masks in self described "raids" upon Churches during which they threaten, harass and bait church-goers. Mr. Myers is a key witness in this case because: (1) there are direct allegations in the complaint concerning Mr. Myers; (2) he is a witness to acts in Los Angeles alleged in the complaint; (3) he has knowledge respecting Plaintiff's alleged damages; and (4) he was given important video recordings of the witnesses to the incident by the plaintiff and other members of their organization.

Mr. Myers was served with a deposition subpoena, but the deposition was continued several times at his request or at the request of his former counsel. Mr. Myers agreed to appear at his deposition on May 28, 2010, confirmed the morning thereof when he called defense counsel and indicated he would be late. Mr. Myers arrived at the deposition two and one-half hours late and then, after just a few minutes, refused to answer questions and left the deposition proceeding. In the few minutes that Myers did testify, he admitted he helped Plaintiff destroy evidence by editing a videotape so that it did not cast Plaintiff in a negative light.

Defendants' counsel would not have retained a videographer and court reporter or appeared at the deposition, but for Mr. Myers' assurances that he would appear and testify. Defendants accordingly seek an order requiring Mr. Myers to appear at his deposition within ten days and for the imposition of monetary sanctions to cover the costs incurred by Defendants during the first round of Mr. Myers' deposition (attorney's fees, court reporter fees, and videographer fees). These fees total \$7,230.91.

### II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Plaintiff's complaint alleges, among other things, that he was battered on October 26, 2008. Defendants deny any wrongdoing. Plaintiff is a member of the group "Anonymous,"

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which among other things, engages in acts its members refer to as "raids" upon Churches of Scientology (Ex. L, Curtis Deposition at p. 9:15) and other acts of harassment. During the raids, plaintiff and his associates generally wear a white "vendetta" mask or other disguises. (Moxon Declaration Ex. M) Plaintiff was trespassing on property belonging to the Church of Scientology International and acting in a hostile manner when he was the subject of a citizen's arrest by Church security guards.

In his original complaint, Plaintiff alleged that the incident was "captured upon numerous video-audio and still camera equipment." (Complaint at ¶ 59.) Early in the discovery process Plaintiff produced a copy of the so-called video of this incident. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 2.) Upon a review of the video, Defendants found that the video was highly edited and many key parts of the video had been removed. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 2.) In December, 2009, Defendants took the deposition of Plaintiff. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 2.) During the deposition Plaintiff acknowledged that the video had been edited and that his associate Donald Myers had done the editing. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 2.) Mr. Myers is a frequent participant with plaintiff in his Anonymous activities, and was the subject of a criminal conviction at the same location for property damage during one of the "raids." (Moxon Dec. ¶ 4.)

Plaintiff's complaint also alleges that his constitutional rights have somehow been violated during protests that have occurred in Hollywood, California. Prior to appearing for his deposition, Mr. Myers produced several gigabytes of videos that showed he was present when Plaintiff appeared in Hollywood. (Cantrell Dec., ¶5.)

Defendants noticed the deposition of Mr. Myers so that they could inquire into several areas, including the editing of the video tape of October 26, 2008, and Mr. Myers' witnessing of other events alleged in the Complaint, plaintiff's alleged damages, and other elements of the claims and defenses regarding plaintiff's knowledge that he was intentionally trespassing. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 3.)

The deposition was originally scheduled to occur on March 18, 2010. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 3, Exh. "A".) The deposition was subsequently rescheduled to April 28, 2010. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 3, Exh. "B".) Thereafter, Mr. Myers' counsel, Graham Berry, confirmed the deposition for that

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date. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 3, Exh. "C".) Mr. Berry subsequently withdrew from representing Mr. Myers. (Cantrell Dec. § 3.) On April 22, 2010, Mr. Myers acknowledged that he would be present for his deposition. He also stated he would be producing 27 gigabytes of data, videos and photos. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 4, Exh. "D".) Recognizing it would take quite some time to review the 27 gigabytes of material, Defendants counsel suggested that the production occur on April 28, and the deposition be continued a short period of time in order to allow Defendants to review the information "so that no time is wasted on the day of your deposition." (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 4, Exh. "E".) Mr. Myers refused, and indicated that he would produce all of the documents on April 28, 2010, and was "willing to stay all day if necessary." (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 4, Exh. "E".)

Rather than causing undue delay while reviewing the documents at deposition, Defendants withdrew the subpoena for Mr. Myers and served two new ones: One for document production on May 20, 2010 and one for deposition on May 26, 2010. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 5. Exh. "F".) After some discussions with Mr. Myers regarding the deposition timing, the parties agreed that the deposition would go forward on May 28, 2010. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 5, Exh. "G".) Although the May 28, 2010, deposition was scheduled at 10:00 a.m., Mr. Myers contacted Defendants and asked if he could appear at noon on May 28, 2010. (Cantrell Dec. § 5, Exh. H".)

On May 28, 2010, Defendants' counsel were present at the site of the deposition at 11:00 a.m. (Cantrell Dec. ¶7.) One of the lawyers, Kendrick Moxon, was required to travel from Los Angeles County. Defendants also hired a court reporter and a videographer, and are required to pay those service providers. (Cantrell Dec. ¶ 8.) Late in the morning of May 28, 2010, after Mr. Moxon and a paralegal were enroute to the deposition, Mr. Myers telephoned indicating he was coming to the deposition, but would not arrive until approximately 2:00 p.m. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 8.) By the time Mr. Myers called it was too late to modify the schedule for the court reporter or the lawyers. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 8.)

Despite Mr. Myers' promise to arrive at 2:00 p.m., he arrived at approximately 2:35 p.m. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 8.) The deposition began almost immediately. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 8.) Within

about 10 minutes Mr. Myers indicated that he planned to leave the deposition. (Cantrell Dec., ¶8.) Soon thereafter, following some preliminary questioning, Mr. Myers actually did leave the deposition and refused to answer further questions. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 8.) He was informed before leaving that he would be subject to a motion to compel and that defendants would seek their fees and costs for the failed deposition.

### III. LEGAL ARGUMENT

### A. An Order Compelling Donald Myers' Deposition Is Warranted.

California Code of Civil Procedure section 2025.450 authorizes a party to seek a court order compelling a witness to attend deposition. As is set forth above and in the Declaration of David Cantrell, Mr. Myers' deposition was properly noticed by Defendants. Defendants' counsel attempted to informally resolve the matter after Mr. Myers' departure, by sending a meet and confer letter, but he declined to engage in a further meet-and-confer. (Cantrell Dec, ¶ 8). Attached hereto as Exhibit "N" is a true and correct copy of my meet and confer letter to Mr. Myers.

Mr. Myers' deposition has been continued several times. Mr. Myers agreed in writing to appear on May 28, 2010. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 6.) Mr. Myers then showed up several hours late and refused to answer more than a few questions. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 8.) He knew at the time he scheduled the deposition that the notice was set for both stenographic and video recording. (Cantrell Dec., Ex. G.) Nevertheless, he failed to warn anyone prior to his arrival on May 28, 2010, that he would refuse to sit for more than a few minutes of questioning. (Cantrell Dec., ¶ 8.)

There is no substantial justification for Mr. Myers' failure to inform the defendants that he intended to leave the deposition thus sparing them the cost and expense of attending themselves, no justification for his departure, and no justification for his continued refusal to attend his deposition. The court should accordingly compel Mr. Myers to attend the deposition pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 2025.450.

Mr. Myers' deposition is necessary. As is set forth above, there are videos depicting some of the incidents in question in this case. Plaintiff testified at his deposition that Mr. Myers

helped him edit and modify these videos, and Mr. Myers is in the chain of custody of the videos

### B. Defendants are Entitled to Sanctions Against Mr. Myers.

Code of Civil Procedure section 2025.450(c)(1) provides that: if a motion to compel deposition is granted "the court *shall* impose a monetary sanction...in favor of the party who noticed the deposition and against the deponent" unless the court finds that the deponent acted with substantial justification. (Emphasis added.) Additionally, Code of Civil Procedure §2023.030 allows the court to impose a monetary sanction against a party for misuse of the discovery process. Such a misuse of the discovery process has been deemed to be a failure to submit to an authorized method of discovery (deposition) or unsuccessfully opposing a motion to compel without substantial justification (Code Civ. Proc. §2023.010(d), (h).)

As shown in the accompanying Declarations of David Cantrell and Kendrick Moxon, Defendants will incur \$7,230.91 due to Mr. Myers' refusal to proceed with his deposition. (Cantrell Declaration, ¶10-12; Moxon Dec. ¶ 4.) This amount is made up of (1) attorney's fees wasted at the failed deposition (\$3,900); (2) Court Reporter and videographer fees from the failed deposition (\$440.91); and (3) attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing this motion (\$2,890). Defendants therefore request that this court order Mr. Myers to pay Defendants \$7,230.91 as a result of his abuse of the discovery process.

### IV. **CONCLUSION**

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Based on the foregoing, Defendants respectfully request that this court issue an order compelling Mr. Myers to attend his deposition within ten (10) days of the hearing on this motion. Defendants further request that this court order Mr. Myers to pay Defendants' reasonable fees and expenses of \$7,230.91.

### LESTER & CANTRELL, LLP

Dated: July 13, 2010

BY:

Mark S. Lester David Cantrell &

**MOXON & KOBRIN** Kendrick L. Moxon

Attorneys for Defendants, CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, INC.; BUILDING MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.; DANIEL ALAN DUNIGAN (ERRONEOUSLY SUED AND SERVED AS DAVID ALAN DUNIGAN); KENNETH R. SEYBOLD; MATTHEW JAMES BUTLER AND SALVATORE MEO

### **DECLARATION OF DAVID CANTRELL**

### I, David Cantrell, declare:

- 1. I am a member of the law firm Lester & Cantrell, LLP, attorneys in this action for Defendants, Church of Scientology International, Inc., Building Management Services, Inc., Daniel Alan Dunigan (erroneously sued and served as David Alan Dunigan), Kenneth R. Seybold, Matthew James Butler and Salvatore Meo ("Defendants") I have personal knowledge of the following facts and am competent to testify thereto.
- 2. Plaintiff's complaint alleges, among other things, that he was battered on October 26, 2008, by Defendants. Defendants dispute this allegation and assert that Plaintiff was trespassing and acting in a hostile manner when he was the subject of a citizen's arrest. Plaintiff claimed in his complaint that the incident was "captured upon numerous video-audio and still camera equipment." Early in the discovery process our office took the deposition of Plaintiff and required that he produce various documents at his deposition. Plaintiff produced a copy of a video that captured some of the events of October 26, 2008. Upon reviewing the video, it appeared to me that it was edited and many of the parts had been removed. For instance, there is a portion of time in the video in which the audio does not match what is occurring on screen. Based on this review, at deposition we inquired of Plaintiff whether or not the video had been edited, and he indicated that it had. Attached to Defendant's evidence as Exhibit "A" to this declaration is a copy of the relevant portions of the pages of Plaintiff's deposition regarding the editing of this video. Mr. Choquette acknowledged during his deposition that the video was edited by Donald Myers. (Exhibit A, page65, 66, 171-173, 187-188.)
- 3. Based on Plaintiff's statements and allegations in his complaint concerning Mr. Myers, our office set the deposition of Mr. Myers. The deposition was originally scheduled to occur on March 18, 2010. (Attached to Defendant's Evidence as Exhibit "B" is a true and correct copy of the first subpoena served on Mr. Myers. Shortly after the service of the original deposition subpoena, the deposition was rescheduled to April 28, 2010. Attached to Defendant's Evidence as Exhibit "C" is a true and correct copy of the Notice of Continuance of Deposition. Thereafter, I received contact from Mr. Myers' lawyer, Graham Berry. During that

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contact Mr. Berry confirmed the deposition would occur on April 28, 2010. Attached hereto as Exhibit "D" is a true and correct copy of the e-mail I received from Mr. Berry in this regard. Mr. Berry subsequently contacted our office and indicated he was withdrawing from representing Mr. Myers.

- On April 22, 2010, Mr. Myers acknowledged that he would be present for his deposition on April 28, 2010. He also indicated that he would be producing 27 gigabytes of data, videos and photos. Attached to Defendant's Evidence as Exhibit "E" is a true and correct copy of the correspondence I received from Mr. Myers in this regard. Recognizing it would take several hours to review 27 gigabytes of materials, I suggested to Mr. Myers that the document production occur on April 28, and that the deposition be continued for a short period of time in order to allow Defendants to review the information so that Mr. Myers time was not wasted. Attached to Defendant's Evidence as Exhibit "F" is a true and correct copy of an email I sent to Mr. Myers. Mr. Myers refused this arrangement and indicated he would produce all of the documents on April 28, 2010, and was "willing to stay all day if necessary." (See Exhibit "E".)
- 5. Rather than causing undue delay while reviewing the documents at deposition, Defendants withdrew the subpoena for Mr. Myers and served two new ones: One for document production to occur on May 20, 2010, and one for a deposition to occur on May 26, 2010. Attached to Defendant's Evidence as Exhibit "G" is a true and correct copy of the two subsequent subpoenas. Later, Mr. Myers produced several gigabytes of data, which I personally reviewed. This material included videos of the Church's property on October 26, 2008, as well as several videos of Mr. Myers and Mr. Choquette harassing members of the Church in Hollywood.
- 6. After several discussions with Mr. Myers concerning deposition timing, the parties agreed that the deposition would go forward on May 28, 2010. Attached to Defendants' Evidence as Exhibit "H" is a true and correct copy of the Notice of Deposition for that date, along with the subpoena. Although the May 28, deposition was scheduled to occur at 10:00 a.m., Mr. Myers contacted me and asked if he could appear at noon on that date. We agreed

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that this would be acceptable. Attached to Defendants' Evidence as Exhibit "I" is a true and correct copy of Mr. Myers' e-mail in this regard.

- On May 28, 2010, I was present at my office for the deposition at approximately 11:00 a.m. Kendrick Moxon, my co-counsel, was also present at that time. Mr. Moxon was required to travel from Los Angeles County to attend the deposition.
- In addition to me and Mr. Moxon being present at the deposition, we also hired a court reporter and videographer for the deposition. Mr. Myers was provided notice that we would be hiring a court reporter and videographer when we served him with the subpoena indicating that we would take these steps. (See Exhibit "G") Despite Mr. Myers' knowledge that we would be present on that date and time with a court reporter and videographer, he telephoned my office late in the morning indicating he would not arrive until approximately 2:00 p.m. By the time Mr. Myers called it was too late to modify the schedule for the court reporter, the videographer or the lawyers. Despite Mr. Myers promise to arrive at 2:00 p.m. he arrived at approximately 2:35 p.m. At that point, the deposition began almost immediately. Within a few questions, Mr. Myers indicated he planned to leave the deposition. In less than an hour Mr. Myers actually did leave the deposition and refused to answer further questions. Attached hereto as Exhibit "J" is a true and correct copy of the condensed version of the deposition of Mr. Myers. Mr. Myers' deposition testimony is necessary in this case with the relevant portions underlined. On June 11, 2010, I tried to informally resolve the issue by sending a meet and confer letter to Mr. Myers. To date, Mr. Myers has not responded to my meet and confer attempts. Attached hereto as Exhibit "N" is a true and correct copy of my June 11, 2010, meet and confer letter to Mr. Myers.
- 9. In addition to the fact that Plaintiff has already provided testimony that Mr. Myers edited many of the videos at issue, Mr. Myers also appears to have been present at several protests that occurred in Hollywood, California. Mr. Choquette's complaint claims that at these protests some acts were taken that impacted Mr. Choquette's rights in this case. After reviewing Mr. Myers' document production it is very clear to me that Mr. Myers has been present with Mr. Choquette at the Hollywood facility on a number of occasions. I have met and

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participated in the deposition of Mr. Choquette and therefore I am familiar with how he looks in a manner that is sufficient for me to identify him on the videos produced by Mr. Myers. We are seeking to complete the deposition of Mr. Myers to inquire into these and other relevant areas.

- I bill my services to my client at the rate of \$300 per hour. On May 28, 2010, I billed my clients at least 6 hours to prepare for and attend the deposition of Mr. Myers. All of these fees could have been avoided had Mr. Myers informed us ahead of time that he was going to (a) show up several hours late and (b) refuse to answer questions regarding his knowledge of the facts of this case.
- In addition to the attorney's fees above, my office engaged a court reporter and videographer to record the events of Mr. Myers' deposition. When we received word from Mr. Myers that he would appear several hours late, it was too late to cancel these service providers. In that regard, we have received invoices from the court reporter and the videographer. These invoices total \$440.91 and are collectively attached to Defendants' Evidence as Exhibit "K".
- In addition to the time incurred above, I have spent at least 4.5 hours in preparing this motion. As indicated above, my time is billed at the rate of \$300 per hour, for a total of \$1,350 in attorney's fees in the preparation of this motion. I expect to review Mr. Myers' opposition and prepare a reply, which should take approximately 3 hours (\$900.00). In addition, I plan to attend the hearing on this matter which will take approximately 2 hours of time (\$600,00). In addition there is a \$40 filing fee for this motion. For this motion, we expect that our clients will incur \$2,890 in attorney's fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on the 13th day of July, 2010, at Riverside, California.

David Cantrell

# DECLARATION OF KENDRICK MOXON

I Kendrick Moxon, declare as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney at law licensed to practice law before all of the courts of the State of California and am a member of the firm Moxon & Kobrin. The facts stated herein are within my personal knowledge and if called upon to testify I could and would competently testify thereto.
- 2. I am one of the attorneys of record for Church of Scientology International, Inc.; Building Management Services, Inc.; Daniel Alan Dunigan (erroneously sued and served as David Alan Dunigan); Kenneth R. Seybold; Matthew James Butler and Salvatore Meo. I was personally present at the deposition of Donald Myers. I traveled from Los Angeles to Riverside for the purpose of attending Mr. Myers' deposition. I arrived in Riverside on May 28, 2010, at approximately 11:00 a.m. While enroute and shortly before I arrived, I learned that Mr. Myers had called and indicated that he would not be present at 12:00 p.m. as required by the subpoena, and that he would not arrive until approximately 2:00 p.m. It being unreasonable for me to travel back to Los Angeles in that short of a time window, I remained at Lester & Cantrell, LLP's office waiting for Mr. Myers to arrive preparing for the deposition. He did not arrive until approximately 2:35 p.m.
- 3. Upon Mr. Myers arrival, we commenced the deposition almost immediately. Within moments Mr. Myers indicated he was not going to answer questions. (See Defendants' evidence, Exh. "J".) Although Mr. Myers stayed a few minutes and answered several questions after he made that initial statement, the deposition ended abruptly shortly thereafter when Mr. Myers refused to continue to answer questions. (See Exh. "J".)
- 4. I have personally observed that Mr. Myers is a frequent participant with plaintiff, Francois Choquette, in his Anonymous activities, which they refer to as "raids." Mr. Myers was the subject of a criminal conviction for property damage during one of the "raids" at the same location where Mr. Choquette was arrested at the Church of Scientology International.
- 5. I have been a licensed attorney since 1984, and was admitted to the California Bar in 1987. In my time as a lawyer I have handled a number of complex matters related to

business litigation, speech issues, and claims against religious entities. Based on my experience and training, \$300 per hour is a reasonably hourly rate for the time I incurred working in this matter. I expended 7 hours of time traveling to and from the deposition, waiting for Mr. Myers to appear, and briefly taking his deposition. In that regard, I request that the Court enter an award of sanctions against Mr. Myers and in favor of my clients in the amount of \$2,100.00 for the time I incurred related to this deposition.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 13th day of July, 2010, at Los Angeles, California.

Kendrick Moxon