

1 RODNEY F. STICH
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5 Plaintiffs in pro se

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7
8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEVADA
10

11 RODNEY F. STICH, DIABLO WESTERN)
12 PRESS, Inc.,)

13 Plaintiffs,)

14 vs.)

15 STEVE GRATZER, DAVID COLLINS,)
16 TROY GUERARD KNIGHT; SMITH AND)
17 COLLINS, PC; PATRICK R. WATTS;)

18 Defendants)

Case No.:

COMPLAINT
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
Title 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983-1986;
RICO (42 U.S.C. §§ 1961-1966);
CONSPIRACY; FRAUD
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

19
20 **General Allegations**

21 This is an action for damages, exceeding \$75,000, arising from the violations of federally
22 protected rights, including the Civil Rights Act and civil RICO that were perpetrated in a
23 conspiracy under color of state law. These violations were part of efforts to halt Plaintiffs
24 exposure of corrupt and criminal activities that Plaintiff and his group of other former and
25 present government agents had discovered. The defendants' misconduct knowingly undermined
26 the security of the United States, acted to obstruct justice, aided and abetted criminal activities
27 described in this complaint. Among the consequences of the misconduct that defendants sought
28 to sequester were the successful hijackings of four airliners on September 11, 2001.

1 **Jurisdiction**

2 Jurisdiction arises under Title 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343; 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983-1986, 1961-
3 1966, and under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

4 **Venue**

5 Venue is based upon (a) the wrongful acts and harm inflicted upon Plaintiff Rodney Stich
6 while he was a resident of the Northern District of Nevada; (b) the Nevada place of
7 incorporation of Diablo Western Press; and (c) harm occurring to matters located in Nevada.
8 Diablo Western Press is a small Nevada corporation, with no paid employees, organized for the
9 purpose of distributing books on national issues. The defendants caused actions to occur which
10 affect matters in Nevada, and exercised the resources of the state of Nevada and California.

11 **Plaintiffs**

12 Rodney F. Stich (“Stich”) has resided in Nevada and California for the past 20 years and
13 considers Nevada his domicile. He is a former federal air safety inspector and investigator, who
14 has attempted to report, to halt, and to bring to justice corrupt and criminal activities in
15 government offices.

16 As an activist and whistleblower, an air safety expert,¹ and a concerned citizen, he has
17 authored books² for the sole purpose of making information known to the public concerning
18 misconduct that continues to inflict great harm upon myriad national interests and upon many
19 lives.
20

21 His initial discoveries occurred while holding federal air safety responsibilities for the most
22 senior program at the world’s largest airline during a 20-year period of numerous air disasters,
23 one of which was the world’s worst.³
24

25 1 Aviation safety expert status arose from his major air safety responsibilities as a federal air safety inspector,
26 an airline captain for many years, a Navy Patrol Plane Commander and instructor in World War II, author of several
27 books on aviation safety, guest and air safety expert on over 3,000 radio and television shows in the United States,
Canada, and in Europe.

28 2 *Unfriendly Skies, Defrauding America, Drugging America, Disavow.*

3 United Airlines DC-8 crash into New York City, which held the city’s record for major aviation tragedy until
September 11, 2001. Both of these disasters were made possible by corrupt activities occurring within the FAA and
the cover-up of these federal crimes by people in other government departments.

1 Diablo Western Press, Inc., is a public-spirited corporation in Nevada that operates as a no-
2 profit operation for the sole purpose of providing information on important national issues by
3 distributing books.

4 **Defendants**

5 Defendant Steve Gratzer is a resident of South Carolina.

6 Defendant Mike Collins is a lawyer and resident of South Carolina.

7 Defendant Troy Guerard Knight is a lawyer and resident of South Carolina.

8 Defendant Smith and Collins is a law firm in South Carolina.

9 Defendant Patrick R. Watts is a Master In Equity in Dorchester County, South Carolina.

10 Defendants whose identification is unknown at this moment but who will be named as soon
11 as his or her identity is known.

12 **Preliminary Statement**

13
14 During his federal air safety duties, Rodney F. Stich discovered and documented patterns of
15 corrupt and criminal activities⁴ implicated in a series of fatal airline crashes. These federal
16 offenses prevented the federal government from carrying out its air safety responsibilities, which
17 in turn caused or made possible many air disasters and deaths, including many that occurred in
18 his area of direct air safety responsibilities.

19
20 Stich discovered and sought to report other areas of criminal and treasonous activities⁵ as a
21

22
23 ⁴ The criminal activities within the FAA, detailed in the third edition of *Unfriendly Skies*, included, for
24 instance: (a) repeated refusal by FAA management to order legally required corrective actions for major air safety
25 problems and air safety violations despite the continuing crashes resulting from the documented matters; (b) warning
26 federal agents not to report crash-causing air safety problems; (c) removing and destroying official air safety reports
27 filed by federal air safety inspectors; (d) retaliating against inspectors who continue to make such reports; (e)
28 removing inspectors from air safety duties, including suspension, for reporting or taking legally required and
authorized actions within the inspector's area of responsibilities; (f) protecting airlines falsifying major air safety
requirements and harassing and threatening inspectors who report the problems; (g) falsifying office reports during
accident investigations.

⁵ Other areas of criminal and treasonous activities included drug smuggling into the United States by people
acting under cover of government positions; massive corruption in the bankruptcy courts implicating federal judges,
trustees, lawyers; secret bank accounts for prominent national figures through CIA-front companies; and other
crimes, as detailed in the third editions of *Defrauding America* and *Unfriendly Skies*, and in *Drugging America*.

1 result of information and documentation obtained from other government agents.⁶

2 Several schemes have been perpetrated against Stich during the past two decades in attempts
3 to block his reporting of these criminal activities. These schemes, using legal processes, were
4 accompanied by record-setting violations of state and federal laws, constituted multiple efforts to
5 block Stich's reporting of criminal and treasonous conduct, making possible the continued
6 infliction of great harm upon the security of the United States.
7

8 **Latest Attempt Using Legal Process To Halt Plaintiff's Public Spirited activities**

9 The latest attempt to halt Stich's efforts to report the criminal activities is the basis for this
10 lawsuit against them. That attempt became known to Stich and Diablo after they were served
11 with the July 5, 2000, filing of a lawsuit against Stich and Diablo in a distant South Carolina
12 court. That lawsuit claimed that Stich's writings in the book, *Drugging America*, libeled and
13 slandered a South Carolina resident named Steve Gratzer.
14

15 **Actual Intent Of the Lawsuit: Block Reporting Of Criminal and Treasonous Activities**

16 The blatantly false statements in that complaint, and the history of legal attempts to silence
17 Stich, indicate that the *actual intent* of the South Carolina lawsuit and \$3 million default
18 judgment was to halt Plaintiffs exposure of criminal and treasonous activities. These exposure
19 activities included books authored by Stich, which were distributed by Diablo. This latest
20 scheme is indicated by:
21

- 22 • The blatant contradictions between what the South Carolina lawsuit charged as libelous
23 and slander writings by the author and what was actually stated in the book.
- 24 • Filing the lawsuit knowing that neither Stich nor Diablo had any assets to be seized, and
25 had no insurance to pay any legal judgment.
- 26 • Filing the lawsuit knowing that a default judgment could be easily obtained since
27

28 ⁶ Government agents who provided Stich with information of federal crimes included agents of the FBI, DEA, Customs, INS, the CIA—including former heads of secret CIA airlines and secret CIA financial operations.

1 neither Stich nor Diablo had funds to mount a legal defense in distant South Carolina.

- 2 • Knowing that their false statements and scheme would not encounter any opposition.
- 3 • Blatant false statements made by defendant Watts in his default order that Stich and
- 4 Diablo pay \$3 million.
- 5 • Claiming a South Carolina residence was libeled when no reference was made to the
- 6 South Carolina person in the book or on the Internet site.
- 7 • The history of prior efforts using legal processes to block the reporting of the criminal
- 8 and treasonous activities.

9 **Exercising Personal Jurisdiction On Highly Questionable Grounds**

10 That South Carolina lawsuit sought personal jurisdiction over Stich, a resident of Nevada
11 and California, and over Diablo, a Nevada corporation acting in a no-profit operation, on the
12 claim that Internet reference to the book, *Drugging America*, and sale through local book
13 stores, provided the South Carolina judge personal jurisdiction. Using that argument, any
14 whistleblower using the Internet to provide information to the public concerning misconduct in
15 government could be easily silenced by the filing of sham lawsuits in a distant location,
16 anywhere in the world.

17 **Pro Se Appearance In South Carolina Court**

18 Stich and Diablo made a *pro se* special appearance in the South Carolina court on the basis
19 that the South Carolina judge had no personal jurisdiction over them. Defendant Watts then
20 acted, arguably without personal jurisdiction and under color of state law, rendering orders
21 knowing that the exposure of major criminal and treasonous activities would be silenced.

22 **Aiding and Abetting Scheme by South Carolina Master-In-Equity**

23 Defendant Watts issued orders under color of state law that violated the civil and
24 constitutional rights of Stich and Diablo, who had made a *pro se* special appearance in the
25 South Carolina court. Defendant Watts combined these civil rights violations by making
26 numerous false statements in his order. In this way, he knew that he would aid and abet the
27 obstruction of justice and the criminal activities being reported.

1 **Combining Civil Rights and Due Process Violations With Obstruction Of Justice**

2 The defendants inflicted great harm upon a former federal agent and witness and acted to
3 halt his exposure of crimes against the United States. By their conduct they violated numerous
4 criminal statutes.⁷

5 Further, being made aware of the charges of criminal activities by a person who held a
6 federal position authorizing him to make such determinations, the defendants had a duty to
7 report them to a federal officer, as provided by Title 18 U.S.C. § 4.

8 **Knowingly Obstructing Justice, A Felony**

9 Each of the defendants knew of the extensive criminal and treasonous conduct that Stich
10 and Diablo were attempting to report and bring to justice. They had read the book, *Drugging*
11 *America*, and knew of the other books seeking to expose other areas of criminal activities. They
12 obviously knew of the extensive legal blocks that prevented the reporting and halting of these
13 major criminal activities and the tragic effect upon national security and the lives of many
14 innocent people. They also knew the criminal nature of their thinly veiled continuation of
15 obstruction of justice and retaliatory acts against a former federal agent, witness, and
16 whistleblower. The filing of the lawsuit knowing that it would halt the efforts to expose major
17 criminal activities that continued to subvert national security and national interests. Their
18 conduct aided and abetted the resulting consequences.

19 **All Defendants Acted In A Conspiracy, Including Violating
20 Plaintiff's Civil Rights, Due Process, and Obstruction Of Justice**

21 The facts indicate that all defendants acted in a conspiracy among themselves, and with
22 persons unknown who are directly or indirectly threatened by Plaintiffs' exposure activities.

23 **Relationship Of Defendants' Conduct To the September 11, 2001, Tragedies**

24 Stich's efforts to expose and halt the criminal activities and their consequences were
25 hindered by the defendants for eighteen months after the sham South Carolina lawsuit was filed
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 ⁷ Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 3, 4, 35, 111, 153, 241, 242, 245(b)(1)(B), 246, 371, 1341, 1343, 1503, 1505, 1512, 1513(b), 1515(a).

1 against Stich and Diablo. Among the corrupt and criminal activities Plaintiffs sought to expose
2 were those that he initially discovered within the Federal Aviation Administration. The latest
3 examples of the consequences arising from this misconduct were the fatal hijackings of four
4 airlines on September 11, 2001.

5 **Acting Under Color Of State Law In South Carolina, California and Nevada**
6 **As Part Of Obstruction Of Justice Scheme**

7 In January 2002, defendants sought to have their default judgment, obtained under
8 fraudulent conditions, recognized in the States of Nevada and California. They invoked state
9 court jurisdiction and acted under color of state law while violating Plaintiff's civil and
10 constitutional rights. In addition, their acts continued to block the exposure of the criminal
11 conditions and continue the harm inflicted upon national interests.
12

13 **Violating Plaintiff's Civil and Constitutional Rights Under Color Of State Law**

14 The defendants violated Plaintiff's civil and constitutional rights under color of state law, in
15 South Carolina, California, and Nevada, while acting in a conspiracy. Defendant Watts
16 knowingly acted without personal jurisdiction over Plaintiff while engaging in a conspiracy and
17 criminal acts that inflicted great harm upon national interests.

18 **Predicate acts affecting interstate and foreign commerce and particularly aviation**

19 Each of the defendants knew that their actions impeded Plaintiffs' public-spirited attempts to
20 expose and halt the corrupt and criminal activities that he and other former and present
21 government agents had discovered. They knew that their actions would block, directly and
22 indirectly, plaintiff=s reporting of corrupt and criminal acts associated with a long line of
23 aviation disasters and would aid and abet the continuation of the misconduct resulting in airline
24 crashes and that their actions affected interstate and international aviation.
25
26

27 The defendants' conduct constitutes a conspiracy consisting of multiple acts to retaliate
28 against and to halt Stich's exposure activities, affecting interstate commerce. The result of their

1 conduct is graphically illustrated by the September 11, 2001, terrorist hijackings.

2 They knew that their actions would block the exposure of other criminal activities that
3 plaintiff's and his sources sought to expose. These include, for instance, drug smuggling into and
4 throughout the United States by people acting under government positions, corrupt funding of
5 high-level government personnel through secret CIA sources, corruption in the nation=s
6 bankruptcy courts, and other wrongful acts described in the books, including *Drugging America*.

8 **COUNT ONE**

9 **(Violation of Civil Rights: Title 42 U.S.C. Section 1983-1985)**

10 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if fully stated in this
11 Count.

12 All defendants directly and indirectly violated, and aided and abetted the violations, of
13 plaintiff=s civil and constitutional rights under color of state law occurring in the states of South
14 Carolina, California, and Nevada. By these acts they violated Title 42 U.S.C. Sections 1983-
15 1985.
16

17 **COUNT TWO**

18 **(Conspiracy To Interfere With Civil Rights, Title 42 U.S.C. Section 1985,)**

19 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
20 Count.
21

22 All defendants violated Title 42 U.S.C. Section 1985, by entering into a conspiracy that
23 violated plaintiff=s civil rights.

24 **COUNT THREE**

25 **(Civil RICO Violations, Title 18 USC ' ' 1961-1965)**

26 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
27 Count.
28

Each defendant engaged in a pattern of racketeering activities affecting interstate and

1 foreign commerce, as defined in the RICO statutes, Title 18 U.S.C. ' 1961(1)(5), and as stated in
2 this complaint. Defendants= predicate acts consisting of the racketeering activities continued
3 without interruption from July 5, 2000, or earlier, and involved two or more predicate acts that
4 gravely affected interstate and foreign commerce, as described in this complaint.
5

6 Each defendant directly and indirectly played direct and indirect roles in obstructing justice
7 by their actions that would knowingly prevent Plaintiff from reporting the criminal activities
8 detailed in plaintiff=s third editions of *Defrauding America* and *Unfriendly Skies* and the first
9 edition of *Drugging America*.
10

11 Each defendant named in this action is a Aperson@ within the meaning of Title 18 U.S.C. '
12 1961(3).

13 Each defendant, by their words and their actions, showed that they had agreed to
14 participate, directly and indirectly, in the affairs of the enterprise through the perpetration of
15 multiple predicate acts.

16 Each defendant acted within the scope of the enterprise. Defendants combined to form an
17 Aassociation-in-fact@ enterprise under RICO for the common purpose of engaging in a course
18 of conduct that defrauded plaintiff, that affected interstate and foreign commerce, adversely
19 affected national interests, and defrauded the United States.

20 Each defendant, persons within the meaning of RICO, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. '
21 1962(a) and ' 1962(b), through their predicate activities, acquired and maintained an interest in
22 the enterprise, continuing their acts in the conspiracy, and furthering the cause of the enterprise.
23 The proceeds of their predicate acts came from their sham lawsuit and attempt to file it as a
24 local judgment in other states, and to seize Plaintiffs' assets. These predicate acts, and the
25 proceeds from them, affected interstate and foreign commerce.
26

27 Each defendant participated directly and indirectly in the conduct of the enterprise, and
28 violated Title 18 U.S.C. ' 1962(c), which provides that Ait shall be unlawful for any person
employed by or associated with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect

1 interstate or foreign commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct
2 of such enterprise=s affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity@

3 **COUNT FOUR**

4 **(Intentional Violation and Deprivation of Common Law Torts)**

5 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
6 Count.

7 All defendants intentionally perpetrated torts and other wrongful acts against plaintiff, and
8 aided and abetted such wrongful acts, knowingly inflicting great harm upon plaintiff.
9

10 **COUNT FIVE**

11 **(Violation of Constitutional Rights and Protections)**

12 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
13 Count.

14 All defendants, directly and indirectly, violated plaintiff=s rights and protections under the
15 First and Fifth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, including the right to petition
16 government, to free speech, to report criminal and treasonous acts in government offices, and
17 the protections against being deprived of liberty and property without and in violation of due
18 process.
19

20 **COUNT SIX**

21 **(Fraud Against Plaintiff)**

22 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
23 Count.

24 All defendants engaged in a pattern of fraud against plaintiff, and entered a conspiracy to do
25 so, which inflicted great and irreparable harm upon plaintiff. The fraud was perpetrated through
26 a sham lawsuit filed in South Carolina stating as facts what they knew to be false, and then
27 seeking to have it enforced in other states.
28

1 **COUNT SEVEN**

2 **(Conspiracy)**

3 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
4 Count.

5 All defendants engaged in a conspiracy against plaintiff, which consisted of acts that caused
6 great and irreparable harm upon plaintiff, as part of a scheme to block his exposure of criminal
7 and treasonous conduct as described in the books that he authored and the speeches that he has
8 given.

9 **COUNT EIGHT**

10 **(Fraudulent and Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage)**

11 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if fully stated in this
12 Count.

13 All defendants either directly or indirectly, interfered with plaintiff=s prospective economic
14 advantage.

15 **COUNT NINE**

16 **(Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage)**

17 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if fully stated in this
18 Count.

19 All defendants negligently interfered with plaintiff=s prospective economic advantage.

20 **COUNT TEN**

21 **(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)**

22 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if fully stated in this
23 Count.

24 All defendants intentionally inflicted upon plaintiff Stich emotional distress through fraud,
25 conspiracy, and violation of civil and constitutional rights.
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2 **COUNT ELEVEN**

3 **(Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress)**

4 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
5 Count.

6 As a result of the above acts, plaintiff Stich suffered negligent infliction of emotional
7 distress during the time frame covered by this Complaint.

8 **COUNT TWELVE**

9 **(Violation of Constitutional Due Process)**

10 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
11 Count.

12 All defendants knowingly and repeatedly violated plaintiffs' right to procedural and
13 substantive due process.

14 **COUNT THIRTEEN**

15 **(Invasion Of Privacy)**

16 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs by reference, as if stated fully in this
17 Count.

18 All defendants repeatedly engaged in acts violating Plaintiffs' privacy.

19 **Damages Demanded From Defendants**

20 Plaintiff demands from defendants damages, punitive damages, costs, and attorney fees,
21 and whatever other relief is provided by a jury and the court.

22 As to Count One, Violation of Civil Rights, judgment in an amount not less than \$10
23 million, individually and collectively against all defendants.

24 As to Count Two, Conspiracy to Interfere with Civil Rights, judgment in an amount not less
25 than \$10 million, individually and collectively, against all defendants.

26 As to Count Three, Civil RICO Violations, judgment in the amount of not less than \$10
27 million, and triple damages, individually and collectively against all defendants.
28

1 As to Count Four, Intentional Violation and Deprivation of Common Law Torts, judgment
2 in the amount of not less than \$10 million, individually and collectively, against all defendants..

3 As to Count Five, Violation of Constitutional Rights and Protections, judgment in the
4 amount of not less than \$10 million, individually and collectively against all defendants.

5 As to Count Six, Fraud Against Plaintiff, judgment in the amount of not less than \$10
6 million, individually and collectively, against all defendants.

7 As to Count Seven, Conspiracy, judgment in the amount of not less than \$10 million,
8 individually and collectively against all defendants.

9 As to Count Eight, Fraudulent and Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic
10 Advantage, in the amount of not less than \$10 million, individually and collectively against all
11 defendants.

12 As to Count Nine, Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage, judgment
13 in the amount of not less than \$5 million, individually and collectively against all defendants.

14 As to Count Ten, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, judgment in the amount of
15 not less than \$5 million, individually and collectively against all defendants.

16 As to Count Eleven, Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress, judgment in the amount of
17 not less than \$5 million, individually and collectively against all defendants.

18 As to Count Twelve, Violation of Constitutional Due Process, judgment in the amount of
19 not less than \$10 million, individually and collectively against all defendants.

20 As to Count Thirteen, Invasion of Privacy, judgment in the amount of not less than \$10
21 million.

22
23 Further, the court should consider the defendants' conduct that obstructed justice, that aided
24 and abetted the federal offenses, and the consequences of their misconduct upon national
25 interests.

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1 A jury trial is demanded.

2 Dated: January 18, 2002.

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Rodney F. Stich

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