
ANNEX 1

HQ14D00866

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

Before the Honourable []

SEAL

MR VAL MYERS

Claimant

-and-

MRS JENNIFER RYCE

Defendant

STATEMENT IN COURT

[Solicitor/Counsel] for the Claimant

My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Val Myers. The Defendant Ms Ryce appears in person.



Mr Myers is a retired Chartered Accountant and Certified Accountant, and a former Principal Lecturer at Kingston University. Mr Myers is a qualified teacher of line-dancing. He has dance teaching qualifications with both the Best Western Dance Academy ("BWDA") and the United Kingdom Alliance of Professional Teachers of Dancing and Kindred Arts. He is well known in the line-dancing world, particularly in the UK, not least because he is responsible for creating a widely used beginners' line-dance programme, and because in January 2007 he won a major award for his line-dance choreography. He has run the line dance club "AB Coasters" in Harrow since February 2004.

On 6 November 2012 the Defendant sent the BWDA a letter making a number of serious allegations against the Mr Myers. These included assertions that he has persistently bullied, harassed and intimidated the Defendant and other members of his dance classes, while in class and outside of them, creating an atmosphere of fear for participants and, in so doing, abusing his position of trust as a teacher. The Defendant specifically alleged that on 29 May 2012 that the Mr Myers carried out a violent, unprovoked and unwarranted verbal assault on her and that, subsequently, on 16 June 2012 he had physically assaulted her.

On 5 March 2013 the Defendant sent a further email to the BWDA alleging that Mr Myers had subjected her and her friend Sandra Ong to a sustained and traumatising campaign of emotional torment over a period of some 17 months, which involved him in spreading slanderous lies about the pair.

On, or shortly after, 11 July 2013 the Defendant sent a third message to the BWDA alleging that Mr Myers had waged an improper and underhand campaign against Sandra Ong and Mary Heal, designed to drive them out of their own line-dancing tuition business, which had involved him making unwarranted, vindictive attacks on their character and their business.

The allegations made by the Defendant are highly defamatory of Mr Myers and entirely false. They were published to an organisation, and to individuals within an organisation, with which Mr Myers has worked successfully and whose respect he has enjoyed for many years. They have caused Mr Myers reputational harm, distress, humiliation and embarrassment.

The Defendant acknowledges that the defamatory allegations are untrue. She has agreed today to withdraw the allegations, apologise to Mr Myers, to undertake not to repeat the same or similar allegations and to pay his legal costs.



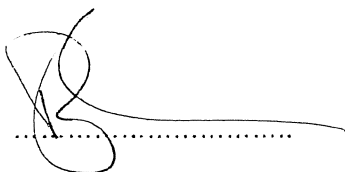
On the basis of this apology and undertaking, Mr Myers is prepared to let the matter rest.

The Defendant

My Lord, I accept everything that has been said. I unreservedly withdraw the allegations in question and apologise to Mr Myers for the damage these allegations have caused.

[Solicitor/Counsel] for the Claimant

My Lord, in the circumstances, the Claimant's object in bringing these proceedings has been achieved and I ask for leave for the record to be withdrawn.



BRETT WILSON LLP
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Dated 20/3/14

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JENNIFER RYCE
Defendant

Dated 20-03-2014

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