

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

LUTHER SUTTER

PLAINTIFF

VS. CASE NO. _____

THURSTLE MULLEN

DEFENDANT

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, **LUTHER SUTTER**, and for his Complaint against Defendant, **THURSTLE MULLEN**, states as follows:

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1. Plaintiff, Luther Sutter, ("Plaintiff"), is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Arkansas and resides in Pulaski County, Arkansas.
2. Defendant, Thurstle Mullen, ("Defendant"), is a resident of the State of Mississippi who regularly visits Arkansas and transacts business in the State of Arkansas by offering rewards for information leading to the arrest Jonesboro police officers and other public officials.
3. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 16-13-201, as the defamatory acts giving rise to this action occurred in Craighead County, Arkansas, and Defendant resides in this jurisdiction.
4. Venue is proper in Craighead County, Arkansas, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 16-60-104, as the defamatory statements were published in this county and the damages occurred in this County.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

5. Plaintiff is a well-respected attorney with an established legal practice and reputation in the State of Arkansas.
6. In 2025, Plaintiff posted on Facebook seeking information relevant to a legal matter he had filed concerning corruption in this County.
7. In response, Defendant, Thurstle Mullen, publicly posted comments on Facebook accusing Plaintiff of misrepresenting his fee contract to his clients, which Defendant asserted constituted criminal conduct, an ethical violation, and grounds for disciplinary action. Mullen also falsely accused Plaintiff of theft by receiving and other crimes. Mullen also falsely accused Plaintiff of having an affair with his client AW.
8. Defendant's comments are false, defamatory, and were published with malice or, at a minimum, reckless disregard for the truth.
9. Defendant's statements accuse Plaintiff of professional misconduct, including fraud and ethical violations, which directly impugn Plaintiff's honesty, integrity, and fitness to practice law.
10. Defendant's statements were made publicly on a social media platform accessible to countless individuals, including Plaintiff's colleagues, clients, potential clients, and members of the public.

11. Defendant's false and defamatory statements have caused substantial harm to Plaintiff's personal and professional reputation, resulting in emotional distress and economic damages, including loss of business opportunities.

12. Defendant's actions were willful, wanton, and conducted with the intent to harm Plaintiff's reputation and standing in the community.

CAUSES OF ACTION - COUNT I: DEFAMATION

13. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 12 as if fully set forth herein.

14. Defendant made false and defamatory statements about Plaintiff, including, but not limited to, accusing him of misrepresenting his fee contracts, engaging in unethical conduct, and committing a crime.

15. Defendant's statements were published to third parties without privilege or justification.

16. Defendant's statements were defamatory per se, as they accused Plaintiff of professional misconduct and criminal activity, which are inherently injurious to Plaintiff's reputation.

17. Defendant's statements were made with actual malice or, at a minimum, reckless disregard for the truth.

18. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's defamatory statements, Plaintiff has suffered damages including, but not limited to, loss of reputation, humiliation, emotional distress, and economic harm.

COUNT II - FALSE LIGHT INVASION OF PRIVACY

19. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 18 as if fully set forth herein.

20. Defendant's false and defamatory statements placed Plaintiff in a false light before the public, portraying him as dishonest, unethical, and unfit to practice law.

21. The false light in which Defendant placed Plaintiff would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.

22. Defendant acted with actual malice in publishing the false statements or, at a minimum, with reckless disregard for their falsity.

23. As a result of Defendant's actions, Plaintiff has suffered damages, including harm to his reputation, emotional distress, and economic loss.

DAMAGES

24. Plaintiff has suffered the following damages as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct:

- a. Loss of personal and professional reputation;
- b. Emotional distress, embarrassment, and humiliation;

c. Economic damages, including loss of clients and business opportunities;
and,

d. Costs and expenses incurred in addressing and mitigating the harm caused
by Defendant's actions.

25. Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount to be
determined at trial.

26. Defendant's conduct was willful, malicious, and egregious, warranting
an award of punitive damages to deter such conduct in the future.

JURY DEMAND

27. Plaintiff prays for a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, **LUTHER SUTTER**, respectfully requests that
this Court enter judgment in his favor and award the following relief:

1. Compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
2. Punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter Defendant and others
from engaging in similar conduct exceeding Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars;
3. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
4. Costs and attorneys' fees incurred in this action; and,
5. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Luther Oneal Sutter, Esq., ARBN 95031

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