

SUMM
TIMOTHY R. TREFFINGER, ESQ.
3163 Key Largo Dr. #204
Las Vegas, NV 89120
775-276-2398
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

RICK BELL ET AL)
LAURA BELL)
THE STARLIGHT SANCTUARY,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
KONRAD TRODE)
MICHELLE COCHRAN)
aka MICHELLE KNUTTLA)
aka CHEVELLE JUSTICE)
aka MI KINECHEWA)
HI CALIBER HORSE RESCUE, INC.)
DOES 1-30)
)
Defendant.)

CASE NO.: 15-CV-01007
DEPT. NO.: 1

SUMMONS

NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

TO THE DEFENDANT:

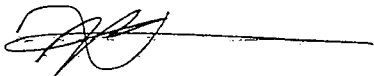
A civil complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint.

1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 20 days after this Summons is served on you exclusive of the day of service, you must do the following:
 - (a) File with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court.
 - (b) Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below.
 - (c) Pay to the clerk of court the required filing fee, or request a waiver.
2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the plaintiff and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint.

//
//
//
//

3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time.

Issued at the request of:



TIMOTHY R. TREFFINGER, ESQ.
Nevada Bar # 12877
3163 Key Largo Dr #204
Las Vegas, NV 89120

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

By: Andrea Andersen
Deputy Clerk

1/2/16
Date

15-CV-01007
Dcpt I

TIMOTHY R. TREFFINGER, ESQ. REPRESENTING RICK BELL, LAURA BELL &
STARLIGHT SANCTUARY INC.
NEVADA BAR #12877
5841 ALFANO AVE
PAHRUMP, NV 89061

2015 AUG 14 PM 4:00

TANYA SCEIRINE
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Tanya Sceirine
DEPUTY

IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

RICK BELL ET AL
LAURA BELL
THE STARLIGHT SANCTUARY INC.
4345 Dayton Ave
Silver Springs, NV 89429

vs.

MICHELLE COCHRAN,
aka MICHELLE KNUTTILA,
aka CHEVELLE JUSTICE,
aka MI KANECHIWA,
HI CALIBER HORSE RESCUE INC.,
DOES 1-30

Defendants

COMPLAINT

1. TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS
2. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF MENTAL DISTRESS THROUGH HARRASSMENT
3. NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF MENTAL DISTRESS THROUGH EXTREME AND OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT
4. TRESPASS TO PROPERTY
5. DEFAMATION
6. INVASION OF PRIVACY/
FALSE LIGHT

INTRODUCTION

COMES NOW BEFORE THIS HONORABLE COURT, The above-named
Plaintiffs (hereinafter Plaintiff) appearing by and through their Counsel, who do hereby
state and aver;

FILED

2016 JAN 21 PM 4:05

JAVIER SERRANO
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Andrea Andersen DEPUTY

1 ACOM
2 TIMOTHY R. TREFFINGER, ESQ.
3 NEVADA BAR #12877
4 3163 KEY LARGO DRIVE #204
5 LAS VEGAS, NV 89120
6 725-696-2298
7 ATTORNEYTREFFINGER@GMAIL.COM
8 *Attorney for Plaintiff*

9 IN THE 3RD DISTRICT COURT
10 LYON COUNTY, NEVADA

11 RICK BELL ET AL
12 LAURA BELL -
13 THE STARLIGHT SANCTUARY, INC.

CASE NO.: 15-CV-01007
DEPT: I

14 Plaintiffs,

15 vs.

16 MICHELLE COCHRAN
17 AKA MICHELLE KNUTTILA
18 AKA CHEVELLE JUSTICE
19 AKA MI KANECHIWA
20 HI CALIBER HORSE RESCUE, INC.
21 ROMNEY SNYDER
22 DANIEL GROVE
23 MILES DUNBAR
24 KONRAD TROPE
25 SANDY GARRETSON
26 BARBARA WELLER
27 TERI CRUTCHFIELD
28 LEEANN MILLER
LINDA MCBRIDE HACKNEY

1 NICKI BRANCH
2 CASEY OCONNER
3 SUMMER HOLLOMAN
4 SHARI HIGGINBOTHUM
5 KERRI MAYER
6 ASHLEE BOYKE
7 CHRISTINE KAUFMAN
8 CHARLOTTE OLHAUSEN
9 SEANA OTTINGER
10 ANNE HOUGHTON
11 BESSIE HOLDSWORTH
12 MAUREEN KEO
13 KERI HELDIGE
14 KRYSTIE WAY
15 LACEY FORD
16 CATHY TROPE
17 ANITA NELSON
18 DAN WINDER
19 RACHEL BENDLER
20 ANGELA LEWIS
21 NANCY ANN TURMELL-RICHARDS
22 DEBORAH GLICK,

23
24 Defendants

25 //
26 //
27 //
28

1 AMENDED COMPLAINT

2 Plaintiffs, by and through their attorney, Timothy R. Treffinger, Esq., files this Amended
3 Complaint which names and alleges conduct for previously unknown DOES:
4

5 CAUSES OF ACTION

- 6 1. TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS
7 2. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF MENTAL DISTRESS THROUGH HARASSMENT
8 3. NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF MENTAL DISTRESS THROUGH EXTREME AND
9 OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT
10 4. TRESPASS TO PROPERTY
11 5. DEFAMATION
12 6. INVASION OF PRIVACY/FALSE LIGHT

13 GRAVAMEN OF THE COMPLAINT
14

15 That the gravamen of this complaint lies with the extreme and outrageously tortious
16 conduct of the above-named Defendant.
17

18 FACTUAL GENESIS

19 ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM AKA SEIZURE SCAMS AND RESCUE RAIDS

20 A new player that has emerged in animal rescue in recent years is the ever increasing
21 operation of animal rescues known as "retail rescues." Retail rescue principle players are not
22 animal rights and/or animal welfare people and are not governmental entities. They are
23 "opportunists" taking advantage of an unregulated opportunity. Some at "retail rescues" exploit
24 animals, to make money through tax free donations, adoptions-for-fee/selling animals. This has
25 become such a common practice in animal rescue that the FBI coined a name for it, calling it
26 "Animal Enterprise Terrorism." (AET) AET attacks are a result of this free-wheeling
27
28

1 atmosphere. John Stossel did an investigative report in 2005 for the program 20/20. The results
2 of that investigation are located here: <http://abcnews.go.com/2020/story?id=817494>.

3 Since 2005 however, and with the introduction of social media platforms such as
4 Facebook which provides entirely free marketing, publicity, and the solicitation of donations by
5 “retail rescues”, “seizure scams”, and “rescue raids” are occurring in epidemic numbers. “Retail
6 rescues”, that incite “social media madness mobs” to maliciously attack animal owners that have
7 been targeted using Facebook, Twitter, InstaGram, message boards, and other social media
8 forums on the internet.

9
10 The elements of a “seizure scam” or “rescue raid” are carried out in a few different ways
11 by the “retail rescues”, whom are often merely animal dealers, traders, brokers, and animal
12 breeders. The particular approach “retail rescues” take is pertinent to who the targets for attack
13 are. Identifying the target for attack occurs first with securing, often while trespassing on private
14 property, of “incriminating” photos and videos of animals and facilities, “staging photos”, and
15 sometimes altering photos using various programs such as PhotoShop.

16
17 Depending on the circumstances and the target, the next step in the attack is often an
18 extortion attempt of securing animals for FREE using threats of “going public”, arrest and
19 prosecution. If they are successful with their extortion attempt and owners allow them to come
20 on premises and choose animals to “rescue”, verbal assurances from the rescue of NO publicity
21 and public scrutiny are usually and often LIES to get the animal owner to relinquish the animals
22 of “the rescue’s” choosing.

23
24 These well publicized attacks and mobs being ramped-up to viciously attack animal
25 owners, are what brings in thousands upon thousands of dollars of sympathy/pity donations
26
27
28

1 Involves the use of someone's name or likeness for commercial benefit. The tort does not
2 apply to incidental use such as a mention of newsworthy activities, nor is the value of a
3 likeness appropriated if the use is not to take advantage of someone's reputation or
4 prestige.

5
6 c. Unreasonable publicity given to another's private life

7 Involves publicity concerning someone's private life if it would be highly offensive to a
8 reasonable person, and it is not of legitimate concern to the public.

9
10 d. Publicity placing another in a false light before the public.

11 Closely paralleling defamation, false light is a privacy tort. It requires publicly placing
12 another in a false light if the publicity would be highly offensive and if the publisher
13 knew or should have known the falsehood.

14
15 CONCLUSION

16 It is submitted that the Defendants, and each of them, are liable under each of the Counts
17 pleaded and are liable for damages that are in excess of the \$10,000 lower limit of this Court, and
18 Plaintiffs respectfully request they be awarded such general and special damages, to include
19 punitive damages, according to proof as well as attorney's cost and fees.

20 The Plaintiffs further ask that each of the Defendants be held to punitive damages in an
21 amount and rate to ensure that such egregious conduct as engaged in the instant case not recur in
22 the future.

23
24 DECLARATION

25 The Plaintiffs in the above-entitled action, having read the foregoing, do hereby swear
26 that the allegations contained herein are true, correct and complete, according to the best of their
27 recollection and belief, subject to the penalties for perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada.
28

1 pouring into “the rescues” coffers, while “the rescue” does not have to account for where, and on
2 what, the money is being spent on.

3 If the extortion attempt is not successful, the end result to the animal owner is basically
4 the same. But after the animals in the “sympathy/pity donation” category have exhausted their
5 donation value, the animals can not be rehabilitated because of age, chronic or acute medical
6 issues and/or are animals that have behavioral or training issues, and they are most often
7 euthanized. The reason these animals are killed or “disappeared” by “the rescue” is simply
8 because:
9

- 10 1. “The rescue” does not want to waste money taking care of “worthless/useless” animals
11 that can not or will not do anything for anyone, and they are discarded as a possible
12 source of embarrassment.
- 13 2. “The rescue” that attacked animal owners using animals that looked bad CANNOT have
14 animals that can not be rehabilitated on their premises looking just as bad and debilitated,
15 unthrifty, or old as they did when they were at their owners property.
16
- 17 3. When the “retail rescue” infrequently publicly announces they will be euthanizing a
18 seized or surrendered animal, they ALWAYS blame it on the animal’s owner the animal
19 was taken from. That triggers “sympathy comments” and donations from the “enablers”
20 in the public regarding how “wonderful”, “caring”, “kind”, and “compassionate” they
21 are.
22
- 23 4. Then the animals that can be rehabilitated are brought into decent condition and are then
24 put up for “adoption for a fee” aka “for sale”, with some “adoption fees” being
25 reasonable and only covering the costs for rehabilitation, care and maintenance.
26
27
28

1 Sometimes, however, a more “desirable” animal put up for “adoption” often has well-
2 beyond what a reasonable adoption fee should be.

3 The Plaintiffs are the principals of the Starlight Sanctuary, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3)
4 Corporation. They are prominent members of the legitimate rescue community and have
5 found themselves the targets of a vicious and prolonged attack by one that was once an
6 associate that the Bell’s referred training and horse hauling to and who is now the principal
7 defendant in this case.
8

9 I. Count 1: Tortious Interference with Contractual Relationships

10 a. To sustain such a tort, the Plaintiffs must plead and prove:

- 11 i. A valid and existing contract.
- 12 ii. The Defendants’ knowledge of the contract;
- 13 iii. Intentional acts intended or designed to disrupt the contractual
14 relationship;
- 15 iv. Actual disruption of the contract; and
- 16 v. Resulting damages.
17
18

19 Here, the Plaintiffs enjoyed several longstanding contractual associations with
20 organizations that assisted The Starlight Sanctuary, Inc. in facilitating the rescue of
21 slaughter bound horses from the Fallon Feedlot. These associations have been disrupted
22 by the calumnies and lies spread by the Defendants and have even resulted in highly-
23 publicized investigations by various agencies. Though cleared of wrongdoing, the
24 publicity, has tainted the name and reputation of the Plaintiffs and resulted in the loss of
25 many thousands of dollars in donations and advantageous relationships.
26

27 II. Count 2: Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
28

1 a. To sustain this tort Plaintiffs must prove:

- 2 i. Extreme and outrageous conduct
- 3 ii. With either the intention of, or reckless regard for;
- 4 iii. Causing emotional distress to the Plaintiff.
- 5
- 6 iv. The Plaintiffs having suffered severe or extreme emotional distress, and;
- 7 v. Actual or proximate causation

8 In this case the named Defendants have posted various comments on public forums
9 throughout the internet, as shown in the attached exhibits, that are patently untrue and
10 with the goal of causing emotional distress to the Plaintiffs. These Defendants succeeded
11 in causing a substantial amount of emotional distress to the Plaintiffs in this case.

12
13 III. Count 3: Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress

14 a. To sustain this tort, the Plaintiffs must plead and prove:

- 15 i. The Defendant engaged in conduct that the Defendants should have
16 realized involved an unreasonable risk of causing emotional distress and
17 that the distress, if it were caused, might result in illness or bodily injury;
- 18 ii. That the conduct caused emotional distress to the Plaintiffs;
- 19 iii. That the distress was of such a nature as might result in illness or bodily
20 harm;
- 21 iv. Actual or proximate causation.

22
23
24 In this case the Defendants have posted false information, or egregiously defamatory
25 information in a public forum, and this conduct was easily foreseeable as causing severe
26 emotional distress to the Plaintiffs. This conduct caused, in fact, severe emotional
27 distress to the Plaintiffs.
28

1 IV. Count 4: Trespass to Property

2 While Trespass may be a tangential issue in the instant case, nevertheless, the Defendant here
3 deliberately bypassed a posted "No Trespassing" sign to enter into a fenced and gated area
4 not open to the public at large. The purpose of the trespass is crucial in that it was
5 accomplished with the purpose of taking pictures with the intent of publishing them, and that
6 deliberately placed the Plaintiffs' business in a 'false light' which will be later placed in
7 issue.
8

9 V. Count 5: Defamation

10 a. To sustain this tort the Plaintiffs must plead and prove:

- 11 i. The Defendants made a false and derogatory statement;
12 ii. Regarding the Plaintiffs' reputation;
13 iii. To a 3rd party;
14 iv. Causing the Plaintiffs to suffer actual damages.

15 Plaintiffs stand ready to prove, by good and sufficient evidence, that the Defendants, and
16 each of them, did state and publish the required elements, while the Plaintiffs are ready to
17 provide the necessary proof of the elements required of them.
18

19 VI. Invasion of Privacy and "False Light"

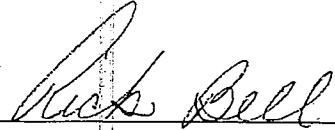
20 a. Unreasonable intrusion upon another's privacy;

21 This tort creates liability for intentional intrusion in another's private affairs if the
22 intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person. An example would be a news
23 photographer sneaking into a hospital room to photograph a non-public figure with a rare
24 disease, after that person has refused an interview.
25

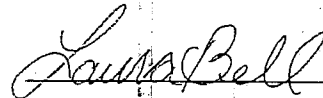
26 b. Commercial appropriation of another's name or likeness
27
28

1 The Plaintiffs further state that no Social Security numbers are included in this Amended
2 Complaint.

3 Executed this 21ST day of January, 2016 in the State of Nevada by:

4
5
6 

Rick Bell

7
8 

Laura Bell

9 DATED this 19th day of the month of January, 2016.

10
11
12 /s/ Timothy R. Treffinger
13 TIMOTHY R. TREFFINGER, ESQ.
14 Attorney for Plaintiffs
15
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EXHIBIT A

Romney Snyder Defamation

1. Facebook post 8-21-13. There is plenty to be concerned about , but I didn't want the facts on the feedlot rescue skewed in the midst of what was happening at the (Starlight) sanctuary.
2. **Romney Snyder Facebook post** September 11, 2013 at 10:16 AM A few weeks ago I posted vaguely of a devastation I had experienced. Last night I ran into many casual friends who I'd not seen for some time and it was brought up more than once out of care and concern. **The nutshell: On August 16, 2013 it came to light that the woman I have been working closely with in an effort to rescue slaughter-bound horses was severely neglecting the majority of the animals at her "sanctuary." It appears to be a tragic case of hoarding and in too many cases the horses are walking skeletons. It was devastating to find any herd in such a condition, much less at the hands of someone that I and so many others supported, respected and trusted so dearly. Even more painful to think of the suffering these animals have been enduring and the knowledge that a simple ask for help could have elicited the critical support she needed. There are now investigations and/or support coming in from nearly every local and national entity ranging from local Animal Control to the FBI to the ASPCA (and many others). My attention and support has now turned to HiCaliber Horse Rescue and their relentless and selfless efforts to save the animals on her property. It is hard to watch the tragic fall of someone you once held in such esteem. What little good remained is now being colored by ugly shades of hypocrisy, ego and vengeance.**
3. THIS IS RE: A HORSE RESCUE SITUATION, NOT MY DAD. (Posted Aug 2013) **Original Post:** Four days ago a huge part of my world was turned upside down. My lack of response has been judged by some, but I thank the rest of you for allowing me my silence and I am grateful to those of you who thought of me during this difficult time. I am deeply devastated at so many levels and there just aren't adequate words to relay my heartbreak. Sadly, rougher waters lie ahead, but I am confident there will be a calm at the end of this storm... and maybe even a rainbow. [I'm sorry for the vagueness of this message. I don't wish to elaborate further or to have it elaborated upon. The many intended recipients will have no question as to the subject matter at hand.]

BELL EXHIBIT B

- 1. Plaintiff attorney cease and desist letter dated 9-4-13**
- 2. Reply from defendants attorney dated 9-11-13**
- 3. Plaintiff attorney reply dated 9-12-13**

Hardy Law Group.com

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

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Del Hardy, Esq.

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stephanie@hardylawgroup.com

CEASE AND DESIST

September 4, 2013

Brett C. Peterson, Esq.
Law Office of Brett Peterson
605 C Street 3rd Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
Sent Via E-mail & USPS to Avoid Delay:
Brett@brettpetersonlaw.com

HiCaliber Horse Rescue
2436 Melru Lane
Escondido, CA 92026-8447
Sent Via E-mail & USPS to Avoid Delay:
hicaliberhorses@yahoo.com

Michelle D. Knuttila, and/or
Michelle D. Cochran
2436 Melru Lane
Escondido, CA 92026-8447

Michelle D. Knuttila, and/or
Michelle D. Cochran
361 W. 5th Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025-4826

Re: *The Starlight Sanctuary and Rick and Laura Bell*

Dear Ms. Knuttila,

This law firm represents Rick and Laura Bell and the Starlight Sanctuary. In an abundance of caution, this letter is being copied to Mr. Brett C. Peterson, Esq. in that it appears he is your current attorney for your pending personal injury (brain injury) action against the Singh Group in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego. However, please advise this office immediately whether or not Mr. Peterson will be representing you with respect to the matters contained herein or if you are represented by other legal counsel and if so, please direct this letter to your attorney immediately and have them notify us of such representation as soon as possible.

You are hereby directed to:

CEASE AND DESIST ALL DEFAMATION OF RICK AND LAURA BELLS' CHARACTER AND REPUTATION AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS AND THREATS REGARDING THE STARLIGHT SANCTUARY AND THE BELLS.

Rick and Laura Bell are educated, respected animal rescue professionals in the community. They have spent years serving and dedicating everything they have to the horses they have rescued and building a positive reputation along the way. Rick and Laura Bell have recently learned that you have engaged in spreading false, destructive, and defamatory rumors about them and further, continued to threaten and harass the Bells.

It is unlawful to engage in libel and defamation of another's character and reputation. Under Nevada law, a person is liable for defamation when the Plaintiff can prove: (1) a false and defamatory statement concerning another; (2) an unprivileged publication to a third party; (3) fault amounting to at least negligence on the part of the publisher; and (4) either actionability of the statement irrespective of special harm, or the existence of special harm caused by the publication. See, *Flowers v. Carville*, 292 F. Supp. 2d 1225 (D. Nev. 2003) aff'd, 161 F. App'x 697 (9th Cir. 2006).

Your defamatory statements, threats and harassment includes and involves but is not limited to the following:

"Unless she realizes the severity of the situation, she will continue to hoard and neglect the horses in her care." August 17, 2013

"If the ranch owner does not act swiftly, we are prepared to use any means necessary to bring these horses to safety." August 17, 2013

"It's a living hell and we need those horses OUT OF THERE." August 17, 2013

"As time went on I saw bail prices rising and my suspicions did too. I was watching my friends and peers throw their money at Starlight Sanctuary but NO ONE had been to the "Sanctuary" to vouch for the conditions." August 18, 2013

"That was the straw for me. She was doing EVERYTHING in her power to keep me from her ranch. Why? Because she knows I've been an Animal Control Officer for over a decade here in California. She knew she was screwed if I went there." August 18, 2013

"She had obviously threw the fresh feed nearest to the pens Guinness was in because she knew they would be in plain sight. She wasn't home and I began to search for Guinness. I had never met him or seen him in person and THAT is how this all came about. I went there to retrieve a horse someone bought. She gave me her address, landmarks and directions. I didn't trespass, but I don't think I would be sorry even if I

had. These horses had not just arrived there." August 18, 2013

"She is clearly ill and needs professional help." August 18, 2013

"I've worked several hoarder cases professionally. Laura is a hoarder. I will stand in front of any judge and jury and offer my professional opinion. She is in over her head, in denial and these horses need help. I went to the local A/C office. There are 2 part-time officers who had no idea what their cruelty statute even was! There was no way I could trust that avenue. They are about .5 miles away from her ranch which is visible from the highway. If they hadn't acted yet, I didn't have much confidence they would now. There is no way they could accommodate a case that big." August 18, 2013

"I am not a rouge justice type of person. I believe in due process but this situation is exigent and there is no time to waste." August 18, 2013

"But we will continue to expose her rationale to the public until the authorities force her to accept help." August 19, 2013

"Feel free to flood them. [Lyon County]" August 19, 2013

"What about Karma??" August 21, 2013

"Sick thing is, Laura's 'personal' horses are fat and are in corrals that line the outside of her property." August 21, 2013

"We hope that you will reach out to us so that we may provide you all evidence we have. We have called your office twice and have yet to hear back. It is imperative to have all aspects of information to successfully investigate this case. We look forward to speaking with you. Michelle Cochran, HiCaliber Horse Rescue 760-443-9424" August 22, 2013

"Horses are still at Laura's place. Please go write Lyon County pg. about the importance of the situation." August 23, 2013

This is only the tip of the iceberg with respect to your defamatory and threatening statements and false allegations.

There are four types of statements that qualify as defamation "per se:" (1) the imputation of a crime; (2) the imputation of having a loathsome disease; (3) imputing the person's lack of fitness for trade, business, or profession; and (4) imputing serious sexual misconduct." *Meyer v. Johnson*, 281 P.3d 1201 (Nev. 2009). Your false statements, threats, false

allegations and continued harassment involve allegations that the Bells lack of fitness for their business and profession, the imputation of a crime and a diseased mind- all of which constitute defamation per se.

Accordingly, we demand that you (A) immediately cease and desist your unlawful defamation and continued harassment of Rick and Laura Bell and the Starlight Sanctuary and (B) provide this office with prompt written assurance within five (5) days that you will cease and desist from further defamation of Rick and Laura Bell and the Starlight Sanctuary's character and reputation.

Please be advised that this Cease and Desist demand letter applies and is directed to any and all of you and/or HiCaliber Horse Rescue's agents and/or individuals acting in concert with you and/or HiCaliber Horse Rescue or under your and/or HiCaliber Horse Rescue's instruction, direction, supervision, control, or influence. Any and all such individuals should immediately cease the continued defamation, harassment and false allegations.

Rick and Laura Bell and the Starlight Sanctuary are entitled to seek monetary damages and equitable relief for your defamation, harassment and false allegations. Please be advised that the Bells intend pursue all available legal remedies, including seeking monetary damages, injunctive relief, and an order that you pay court costs and attorney's fees. Your liability and exposure under such legal action could be considerable.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rice, Esq.

SR/cr
Cc: Client; File

Enclosures: As Stated.

**CENTURION LAW GROUP, P.C.**

9107 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE 450

BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210

TEL: (888) 942-9997

FAX: (888) 942-9997

KTROPE@CENTURIONLAWGROUP.COM

September 11, 2013

**CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT COMMUNICATION PURSUANT TO:
NEVADA REVISED STATUTE § 48.105, CALIFORNIA EVIDENCE CODE §
1152(A) AND FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE, RULE 408**

**VIA E-MAIL (Stephanie@HardyLawGroup.com)
AND FACSIMILE (775-329-8282)**

Stephanie Rice, Esq.
Hardy Law Group
96 & 98 Winter Street
Reno, NV 89503

RE: *Starlight Sanctuary and Rick and Laura Bell v. HiCaliber Horse Rescue*
Your letter of September 5, 2013 to Michelle D. Cochran and HiCaliber
Horse Rescue

Dear Ms. Rice:

This law firm represents HiCaliber Horse Rescue and Michelle D. Cochran. We are in receipt of your letter of September 5, 2013. We are responding to that letter and are responding in the form of what most jurisdictions recognize as a privileged communication regarding settlement.

First, your letter seems to ignore the fact that truth is an absolute defense when resisting allegations of defamation. *See Curtis Pub. Co. v. Butts*, 388 U.S. 130, 151-152, 87 S.Ct. 1975, 1989, 18 L.Ed. 2d 1094 (1967). Indeed, our client has photographic and other documentary evidence of the various civil and criminal violations being committed by your client. Moreover, our client has stated she would be happy to testify in court. Thus, I wonder to what extent your firm has even investigated the accuracy of the charges made by your client.

Second, your client is a public figure. Your client has injected herself into the public eye with voluminous postings all over the Internet, on Facebook, Craigslist, and other websites, in which she talks about the plight of abandoned horses and horses needing rescue, along with her pleas for donations. In fact, Starlight's status as a tax

Stephanie Rice, Esq.
September 11, 2013
Page 2

exempt organization under I.R.C. § 501(c)(3), along with its Internet pleas for donations, further puts your client into the realm of a public figure.

Your client has also made numerous postings on the Internet regarding horse rescue and other issues related to animal abuse. Thus, your client has definitely inserted herself into the public eye, and at the very least has made herself a public figure so far as animal rights and animal abuse issues are concerned.

Under the heightened standards set forth in the Supreme Court case of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964) as that case and subsequent decisions citing that decision have declared, public figures such as your client cannot sustain a cause of action for defamation unless they can meet a three-part test: (1) the statements are false; (2) the statements are defamatory; and (3) the statements were made with a conscious and reckless disregard for the truth of the matter asserted.

Based upon our review, investigation and interpretation of the matter thus far including, but not limited to, the various statements you have quoted in your letter, it is patently absurd for your client to make any allegation of defamation. Indeed, considering the ubiquitous presence your client has on the Internet, and how she has inserted herself into the public eye, it is inconceivable how she can claim defamation when she has attracted comments and controversy.

The Internet, as you are no doubt aware, is recognized as a major forum for the free exchange of ideas, comments and criticisms. The holdings from the *Sullivan* decision are no less applicable to the Internet than any other forum. Moreover, based on our review of the evidence so far obtained, including our reviewing comments and postings made by your client, it is hard to imagine how Ms. Cochran's postings would be considered defamatory. From our review of the record, thus far, it seems that your client has practically admitted to the various allegations, with flimsy justifications that would never stand up in court.

Accordingly, we are authorized to offer the following settlement terms and conditions to your client, as follows:

- (1) Your office shall immediately withdraw the letter of September 5, 2013;
- (2) Your client shall stop any and all threats or acts of intimidation against my client;
- (3) The matter is dropped. The parties continue with their lives unabated.

In the event your client insists upon proceeding forward with any kind of lawsuit, it will be met and vigorously defended including, but not limited to, counter-claims for abuse of process, declaratory relief, as well as violation of various IRS regulations as they apply to non-profits.

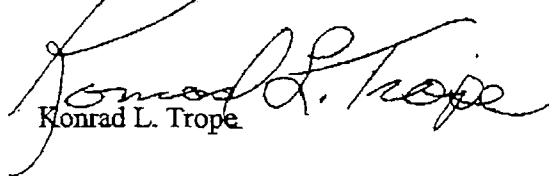
Stephanie Rice, Esq.
September 11, 2013
Page 3

We will be vigorously defending and pursuing all of our client's rights and remedies unless we hear from your office by 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, September 13, 2013 that your client has accepted all terms and conditions for settlement set forth hereinabove.

The foregoing is not a complete recitation of all facts, nor is the foregoing intended to be a complete explanation of all rights and remedies, all of which are expressly reserved herein. I strongly suggest your client reconsider the position set forth in your letter of September 5, 2013. Should you wish to discuss this matter, I can be contacted by e-mail or by phone as shown on our letterhead, above.

Very truly yours,

CENTURION LAW GROUP, P.C.



Konrad L. Trope

KLT/crt

cc: Michelle D. Cochran



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September 12, 2013

Konrad L. Trope, Esq.
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Sent Via E-mail and USPS to Avoid Delay: KTrope@CenturionLawGroup.com

*Re: The Starlight Sanctuary and Rick and Laura Bell v. HiCaliber Horse Rescue/
Michelle D. Cochran; Cease and Desist Letter*

Dear Mr. Trope,

I am in receipt of you're the correspondence you emailed to me last night after 9:00 p.m. and I am both shocked and offended by its content.

First off, your inference that this office has not fully investigated our client's account of the situation is not only patently false, it is insulting.

You are correct that truth is an absolute defense to defamation claims. Your clients have made matter of fact statements, knowing that they are false and them published them to the direct detriment of my clients. I have no obligation to provide you with every single shred of evidence to support my clients' claims, nor do I intend to- that would be your duty through your own investigation right?

However, just as one clear-cut example, Laura Bell is not a hoarder, mentally ill or ill at all for that matter, nor does she require "professional help" for any such falsely alleged illness. Yet, your clients have publically misrepresented that they have the professional qualifications supporting their statements and that Laura Bell "is clearly ill and needs professional help." As far as my preliminary investigation has uncovered, Ms. Knuttila (Cochran) only holds a Baton Permit/ License No. 126937 that was issued in 2002. If I am mistaken and she also holds some sort of a medical degree or is a certified psychologist or something along those lines that would qualify her to make such type of mental health diagnosis, please let me know at your earliest convenience; otherwise we have a per se (damages presumed) defamatory statement.

Further, your threatening statement that in the event my clients do not agree to the settlement terms contained in your correspondence and proceed against your clients, that such actions will be met with IRS involvement with respect to my clients' non-profit is inappropriate, unethical and a violation of California as well as Nevada law.

California Courts have consistently held that threats half-couched in legalese does not disguise their essential character as extortion. . See, *Flatley v. Mauro*, 39 Cal. 4th 299, 328, 139 P.3d 2, 21 (2006). See also, *Libarian v. State Bar*, 38 Cal.2d 328, 329-330, 239 P.2d 865 (1952); and, *State v. Harrington*, 128 Vt. 242, 260 A.2d 692, 699 (1969). Additionally, Rule 5-100 of the California Rules of Professional Conduct, by which you are governed, explicitly provides:

(A) A member shall not threaten to present criminal, administrative, or disciplinary charges to obtain an advantage in a civil dispute.

(B) As used in paragraph (A) of this rule, the term "administrative charges" means the filing or lodging of a complaint with a federal, state, or local governmental entity which may order or recommend the loss or suspension of a license, or may impose or recommend the imposition of a fine, pecuniary sanction, or other sanction of a quasi-criminal nature but does not include filing charges with an administrative entity required by law as a condition precedent to maintaining a civil action.

(C) As used in paragraph (A) of this rule, the term "civil dispute" means a controversy or potential controversy over the rights and duties of two or more parties under civil law, whether or not an action has been commenced, and includes an administrative proceeding of a quasi-civil nature pending before a federal, state, or local governmental entity.¹

In *Flatley v. Mauro*, 39 Cal. 4th 299, 139 P.3d 2 (2006), the correspondence the attorney sent included a threat similar to the in your correspondence stating, "Any and all information, including Immigration, Social Security Issuances and Use, and **IRS** and various State Tax Levies and information will be exposed." [Emphasis Added]. Additionally and again similar to your correspondence, the letter in *Flatley v. Mauro*, contained the following label: "FIRST & FINAL TIME-LIMIT SETTLEMENT DEMAND." *Id.*

The *Flatley* Court went on to find that "Moreover, the threat to disclose criminal activity

¹ Due to the fact that your clients have clearly availed themselves to the jurisdiction of the State of Nevada, see also, Nevada Attorney General Opinion stating, "The Canons of Ethics have long prohibited misuse of the criminal process by an attorney to gain advantage for his client in a civil case. ABA Code of Professional Responsibility, 1969, provides in Section DR 7-105, p. 88: '(A) A lawyer shall not present, participate in presenting, or threaten to present criminal charges solely to obtain an advantage in a civil matter.' ..." 1990 Nev. Op. Att'y Gen. 1 (1990).

entirely unrelated to any alleged injury suffered by Mauro's client 'exceeded the limits of respondent's representation of his client' and is itself evidence of extortion." *Flatley v. Mauro*, 39 Cal. 4th 299, 330-331, 139 P.3d 2 (2006); citing, *State v. Harrington, supra*, 260 A.2d at p. 699, holding, (Attorney's veiled threat to have his client in a divorce action inform on her husband to the Internal Revenue Service and Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization supports attorney's conviction of extortion). The overall holding in *Flatley* was that attorneys are not exempt from the principles of extortion in their professional conduct. *Id.*

Further, your intentional labeling of your correspondence as a "Confidential Settlement Communication" is of no effect in that the action of attorneys in threatening criminal prosecution to obtain advantage in civil a case was not privileged, and attorneys therefore were not immune from liability in suit for intentional infliction of emotional distress, where, despite the fact that the threat was made in attempt to bring about settlement of civil litigation, threat to present criminal charges in such circumstance was proscribed by the rules and was cause for discipline of attorney. *Kinnamon v. Saitman and Snyder*, 136 Cal.Rptr. 321, 66 Cal.App.3d 893 (1977) (disapproved on other grounds in *Silberg v. Anderson*, 50 Cal.3d 205, 219, 266 Cal.Rptr. 638, 786 P.2d 365 (1990)). Accordingly, despite its label, your correspondence is not privileged.

Your client has been directed to Cease and Desist any and all defamatory and harassing conduct. If your clients are disseminating the truth in a way that does not constitute the ongoing and continued harassment of my clients, then my clients' Cease and Desist demands would obviously not apply to such conduct.

However, my clients still demand that your clients (including agents and/or individuals acting in concert with you them or under their instruction, direction, supervision, control, or influence) immediately Cease and Desist all defamation, false allegations, harassment and threats against and in regards to Rick and Laura Bell and the Starlight Sanctuary. Your client's failure to do so leaves them no choice but to seek formal injunction.

In conclusion, your client's so-called "offer" is hereby rejected. There is no question our client's do not get along, as is the case with most lawsuits or soon-to-be lawsuits; however, in the future, the professional courtesy of cordial communication between counsel would be appreciated and is expected in lieu of inappropriate threats. So, how would you and your clients like to proceed?

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rice, Esq.

SR/cr
Cc: Client; File

Enclosures: None.

BELL EXHIBIT C

Michelle Knuttila AKA Michelle Cochran, Chevelle Justice

1. 8-20-13 Michelle acknowledges in this post that she wrote it:
" I (Michelle) am aware of Rick Bell's post about me. ...the bottom line is there is nothing he or Laura can say that will ever make the conditions of their ranch acceptable."
2. Post by Michelle Cochran posting as HiCaliberHorse Rescue on HiCaliber Horse Rescues Facebook page 8-20-13:
"To answer a valid and popular question – why is our 501 pending? (Larry - This is the basis of her fundraising fraud. HCHR was not even filed as an entity with the State of CA until 10-16-13 so how could she be pending with the IRS?) Well, to be honest...as an ACO I saw several 501's who were criminally negligent. I don't really feel a 501 holds much water in terms of accountability. Look the Starlight Sanctuary. A 501c3 didn't prevent her from abusing animals."
3. Post by Michelle Cochran posting as HiCaliberHorse Rescue on HiCaliber Horse Rescues Facebook page 8-20-13 showing several Starlight Sanctuary sick horses:
"As many of you know, while hauling this week, we stumbled across a serious neglect situation involving about 60 horses. There are 20+ horses who need immediate help. We made contact with the owner and have informed them this situation needs swift action. We have offered our help and initial relinquishment agreements with the owner have been made."
4. Starlight Sanctuary and HiCaliber Horse Rescue Facebook page and YouTube video:
Video 3 – 1:29-1:54: "Holy f**kin' shit <sigh> starlight sanctuary alright...tryin' to get the hell in-and-outta here before she gets back, but this is the condition of every fucking animal on this property". 1:29-1:54
5. Video 4; "skin and bones, everybody.....everybody" 1:40-1:59
6. Video 5: "there's not a well fed horse on this property" 1:17-1:21
7. Chevelle Justice/Michelle Knuttila – 8/1/2014 – comments under her publicly posted Video:
"It is a horrible situation".
HiCaliber Horse Rescue - Defamation
8. HiCaliber Horse Rescues Facebook page: 8/17/13 Well, we tried to help. Unfortunately, the owner is posting photos of her own and defending herself. That is not a person remorseful for her actions and I will not turn a blind eye to what we found yesterday. Folks, the pictures below were taken yesterday at "The Starlight Sanctuary". We were just as shocked and disgusted as you are. It took a good 12 hours for it to soak in. "lager" posted below is really "Guinness". His before and afters are attached. I think Laura Bell meant well in the beginning. I really do, but

she got in over her head. Unless she realizes the severity of the situation,, she will continue to hoard and neglect the horses in her care. I confronted Laura Bell and offered her our help. She made excuse after excuse and never acknowledged the severe conditions found. Where are her volunteer's? Where are her progress photos? How many of you have visited the "Sanctuary"? Well guys, I did. It's a living hell and we need those horses OUT OF THERE.

9. HCHR Facebook Page: August 17 (2013) URGENT Help Needed! (12 photos) As many of you know, while hauling this week, we stumbled across a serious neglect situation. Involving about 60 horses. There are 20+ horses that need immediate help. We made contact with the owner and have informed them this situation needs swift action.
10. HCHR Facebook page post by HCHR– January 4, 2015 "Guinness is a survivor of the worst neglect case we have ever seen and went on to live a wonderful life at a luxurious barn on the outskirts of San Diego. It was an emotional reunion for all parties, but especially for Michelle, as this horse is one of the few other living beings aside from herself, who knows the horrors of what she found at a "sanctuary" in Nevada back in August 2013. Guinness was the horse who put HiCaliber on the map, he lead the way for other horses like Granny and Solar who needed salvation. After 10 years of quietly and privately rescuing horses in need, HiCaliber Horse Rescue had no choice but to go public with their findings at said "sanctuary" – a decision that changed everything for Guinness, HiCaliber and exposed a huge façade that rocked the rescue world. Yesterday's moments, visiting with a survivor who is alive and thriving due to the brave actions of our team and supporters, were incredible, emotional and offered some much needed healing for a heart that is still haunted by the images seen (Go to August 18th, 2013 videos to see footage.)"
11. Comment by HCHR under their HCHR Facebook page post on – January 4, 2015 "Apparently in that area, as long as you start feeding them again, you get let off the hook. It won't be long before skinny horses start popping up again. Tigers don't change their stripes."
12. HCHR FB page post - 9/26/2013: "40 days ago, that last haul to Fallon, brought us Guinness – the emaciated gentleman who touched so many hearts – a canary in the coal mine, so to speak". HCHR commenting under their post on their Facebook page - August 22, 2013 "No one had previously been to her facility. The only thing fishy is Laura's care for the animals. No conspiracy here. We were on Laura's starlight team before we found the atrocious conditions on Friday."
13. HCHR Facebook page post - Before and Afters of Starlight "Sanctuary" – August 22, 2013 One of our goals at this time is to allow our page to be an "easy to access" source of evidence for all parties involved. As you will see, attached to this post are several "before and after" shots. These photos further support The Starlight Sanctuary's failure to provide proper care and attention to the long term equine residents in their custody."
14. HiCaliber Horse Rescue Facebook page - comment under their post– August 17, 2013 – Teresa Marriot as you will see in the video, there are horses in good weight. They were usually the head of the group they were in or just got there (Titan) etc. Below the comment above from August 17, 2013:
15. "They were by far the minority"

BELL EXHIBIT D

Romney Snyder on Behalf of Michelle Cochran-Knuttila Extortion Attempt Corresponding With Laura Bell via "private message" (PM) on Facebook

August 17, 2013 10:17 AM

Hi Laura,

Sorry for not getting back to you last night. I came home to all your texts as well as a long conversation with Michelle, Niki, and Amber with photos of a lot of the horses... I was just completely overwhelmed and very emotional. I don't know even know what to say.

I know you've been struggling with the bots and lice but that just can't explain Guinness who was a pretty decent weight 2 months ago. He looks horrific. I know you've been feeding him, but obviously there was a much bigger problem than bots or lice. And I know you would never intentionally let your horses get this bad, but I wonder if we just haven't overwhelmed ourselves with the feedlot rescues on top of everything else. You were already doing a ton for the animals when you just had the sanctuary to manage... and that was without the incredible extra stresses and exorbitant time demanded by the feedlot rescues. We both talk about hitting a wall and not being able to do it all... she has video of bone dry water buckets. We just can't do it all without more help.

I know Michelle is extraordinarily upset and feels she is mandated to report. This scares me to death. Whether you would ever be prosecuted, I'm afraid you would be hung in the courts of public opinion. The last thing I want is for your reputation and Starlight's to go down after all the amazing good you've done. And even if you have vet records to show care, I think public scrutiny of photos (and lack of any article/reports suggesting bots and lice could do this) is going to outweigh any explanations you can give.

Everyone has seen Sanctuary photos from last winter where your horses were all of good body weight and healthy and I think it's they have a general consensus that your pre-Shasta count was a more manageable herd size. **Michelle is needing to see an immediate decrease in the numbers and have an agreement from you that you will immediately relinquish the horses determined to need it the most.**

I've literally been sick to my stomach to have to even suggest this. This is probably one of the most horrible situations I've ever felt put in. **But if you are willing to relinquish horses (and I hope you are because this is out of my hands but I do NOT want to see you vilified as a hoarder/neglector if this were to be reported and go very public) then I can help find/arrange hauls and homes.**

Please understand this is not in my hands or my control. I'm trying to help you avoid what I'm afraid could come down the pike if she reports. I don't know what else to say... I'm heartbroken that we're here but I don't want to see you labeled as the next Laura Crist!

Let me know if I can help you fix this. I can't get on the phone until about 12 (fixing breakfast, shuttling kids, etc) but can talk then. Or I can try to catch messages here as I run about.

Laura, please don't talk about killing yourself. You are one of the most amazing, selfless people I have ever met. Your animals need YOU.

Laura Bell reply to Romney Snyder via PM – August 17, 2013 11:13 AM

Romney, I am calling animal control first thing Monday morning and having them come over here. I will also be giving them my vets number to. And the bone dry water buckets Gosh Romney, I went to the bank for God's sake and then spent the afternoon watering. This is what I mean about you and people like Michelle; I guess its fucking life and death if horses don't have water for 2 hours? Really? Long hooves, that is life and death? Tangled manes and tails? And if Michelle thinks Atlas is skinny, she is delusional. Going further, I will be printing out reams of literature of just how DEBILITATING lice and bots can be to herds of horses, so that is nota problem.... And I also have thousands of dollars worth of receipts to show what all I've been doing about it.

So heres the deal, if Michelle keeps passing those photos around, I will sue her. And after animal control has been here, I will be posting their notes. You all can't be bothered to take in the types of horses we do and would rather not have to look at them because it hurts you to look at animals with issues.... So be any way you want to beRomney, but since you do not have enough respect for me to have called me, I guess we are done here.

Andtell Michelle that once animal control has come out and looked at my place (and believe me, they will NOT be worried about the manure on the ground that keeps horses from ingesting sand and dying from sand impactions and also it wearing holes through their gut and spewing blood out of their rectum as happened with a neighbors horse and it was awful, and that also contains the fly predators that reside in manure), I will post their findings. People like Michelle who won't get off their asses to rescue the horses that really need rescuing are disgusting because in her world, and I guess yours too, everything must be perfect. So I hope that as she ages and gets old there is not euthanasia for people who are not functional anymore because maybe she will know how the animals like the dogs she talks about euthanizing simply because no one wanted them felt.

I am disappointed that you didn't call me, so I guess we're done. But Michelle will be sued if she keeps posting photos she took here when she was trespassing. And for the record Romney, Guinness DID drop A LOT of weight in the past 2 weeks, so they better make sure he's dewormed again, that the lice are off him, and that his teeth are floated. Linda can afford it since she never paid for any of the couple hundred bucks I spent on his hay.

So either call me or don't, but thanks for nothing if you are the typical "pretty pony" rescuer who think animals should be dead rather than ugly but wanting to be alive.

Laura Bell (continued) 8/17/13 11:23 AM

And yes Romney, we do need to make arrangements to get some of these horses out of here. I am not letting any of my horses that are fat and shiny and in good health that I've had for years go anywhere even though those are the ones people will want. But if we can make arrangements to find homes for the ones who are old, lame, have issues, then I'm good with that. So let me know when someone can pick them up.

And also, if these horses are confiscated, they will end up going to the kill sale. We are working our way through it and I have records to prove it. So please let me know which of the horses that no one else wanted that someone will come and pick up.....that does not include Atlas, but can include Jack, Sundance, Sparkle who has stringhalt and emotional problems, and I have a couple more lame ones that no one wanted but if you can find homes for them that would be great. ...and if they put them down just because they don't want to take care of old horses, I will go after them.

Romney Snyder 8/17/13 11:50 AM

C'mon Laura. You know me WAY better than that. And I just said I WAS going to call you when I didn't have the extra kids. I have to be careful how I behave in front of the foreign students and I expect it to be a very emotional call... Last night I genuinely couldn't call until late and then was hit like a brick wall to come home to everything. I didn't know what to say and had to process. **Then started hearing everything that could happen and I wanted to get my thoughts down in a row because I felt you needed to hear what Michelle was saying she needed to do.** I TRULY wanted to protect you in all of this. I was put in the HORRIBLE position of "get Laura to fix this or its over" and I needed to figure out how to sort my thoughts. Even in good/happy conversations you talk right over me (it doesn't bother me at all) and when you're upset I can't get a word in edge-wise. I needed to tell you what was being told to me. I needed to figure things out. This is awful in EVERY respect.

If you want to punish me for trying to help you best I could, that's going to be up to you. **I was trying to help before Michelle went to the authorities or public. And saying the only horses you'll give up are the ones that actually NEED sanctuary doesn't make any sense. But you have a lot of younger, sound, healthy horses (no one is talking about your "fat-and-happys"). And even some of the older ones people were happy to take but you were the one who felt they needed to go to sanctuary. Not everyone needs a perfect horse.**

And I have to admit I'm very disappointed that I've spent the last 12 hours SICK about the accusations and the potential ramifications to you.... Trying to figure out how to intercede and help you and your response is "we're done". That'll teach me. Next time I can call you up, agree with all you say and sit back as things tumble? That's not what a friend would do.

Romney Snyder - 8/17/2013 11:54 AM

Laura, Michelle is not worried about being sued. She's going to go public with the photos... please reconsider.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 1:17 PM

So Michelle will "let us" keep the old skinnys, and horses with chronic issues that make them unadoptable. For the most part, and horses I've had a lot of years, but I "have" to give up my younger horses, or good looking horses that don't have issues, or any horse that looks fine? Is that right?

And what is the point of having a rescue if rescues don't take in horses with chronic issues with no where else to go? I'm not getting this because I'm wondering what kind of rescuing Michelle does that she hasn't seen some rescues that look like some of the horses here.....

So which horses in Michelles opinion do I HAVE to "re-home? I need to know this because right now I'm confused of why Michelle doesn't want the ones with issues, but wants the ones who don't have issues? Hmmm, that simply does not make sense Romney.....so please tell me which ones Michelle wants because if it isn't also the ones that really have issues, are not in good weight as many of our horses are on the older ones and/or the ones that have had severe problems with bots and lice (and PLEASE read up on how BAD lice and/or bot, or both at the same time, can truly be.....I have told you I have never dealt with this in over 40 years of being around horses, and aren't the lame, old, blind, etc ones, how is that fair to us? And quite frankly Romney , I have photos of full water troughs from all over the property and feet have been trimmed.....so now what will Michelle be turning us in for....matted manes and tails, come on Romney, this is like when Teri was going after Betty for her place, because what we are dealing with are facility snobs and people who apparently selectively rescue.

She can come and get the ranch mare Flower, Izzy, Maple, Jack (he's wild so he needs to be hauled loose and he's lame on his right hind and that's why he was dumped on me by whoever "rescued him" (can't remember who that was now) and also Sugar (Atlas' friend). PLEASE take those off my feed bill right away because I have been trying to find most of them homes for months.

It's sad, but it becoming clear from Michelles day's as an ACO that her words yesterday of "wanting to help" were insincere. Now if Michelle were a thoughtful, rational person, she'd say something like "I better see some improvement in the animals" but to tell us we HAVE to get rid of animals that we rescued from imminent death, and because she's not here helping financially, volunteering, etc? THAT Romney is "selective rescuing" of once again people dumping the old, lame, sick ones on us, but wanting the ones who are recovering from bots and lice because they are young and cute? Furthermore, Michelle can have the little black filly Faith and her Mom Hope (dark brown mare) out there who is finally starting to look better actually but obviously has issues since she came here actually, so I would not be wanting to hear someone euthanized her because she may perhaps never be rideable, but the other babies do not belong to me, nor does Sadie, the 25 year-old Appy gelding....so she should PLEASE let me know when she will be here to pick up her horses.

What she is doing now is plain evil, but I can't stop her from doing whatever she's going to do but at

least will have it in writing that I offered to have her come and pick up at least 5 horses, maybe more if she will also take some horses that have issues but aren't very adoptable but she could try....once again though, I would expect her to not put them down even if they are skinny until the horse says they are ready to be euthanized.

Why would Michelle go public with photos Romney, I thought she wants to HELP?

So when are trucks and trailers arriving to take horses to good homes that are old and have issues and are lame, but also some adoptables too? And if they are crossing into CA, I can have my vet when he already comes out for my already scheduled last week appointment for Shelby draw blood on them too for coggins and health certs.

Also, why has no one been wanting to adopt Maple who looks great and doesn't have any issues? And where has Michelle been when we've been trying to adopt out horses who are O.K. to adopt like Izzy whose feet Rick and I trimmed and 4 others since we have more time now?

So please tell me which ones she'd like and I'll decide.

And I guess if Michelle is mean spirited and self righteous enough to publish photos of our place publically, she's going to do it.....I will simply publish photos of horses with perfect feet, shiny coats, happy expressions living in herds who are just fine. THEN I will publish photos of horses who look bad from a bot and lice infestation, who have longer feet that we will trim and show them perfect, will show water troughs full, will show the perfect hay I feed, and buckets of rice bran that I feed, etc. So I cannot control what Michelle will do at this point and say "these are the horses that you, and you, and you couldn't be bothered to rescue?"

So even though we've been following protocol for severe bots infestation, and even blood-sucking lice, and even though I have been around horses without EVER having this problem, I am being insulted by ALL of you.

At this point, and if Michelle ever decides to rescue bunches of horses at the same time (which I doubt she will do because I have never done it before the past 9 months and will never do it again and that is why I am NOT at that sale today in Fallon and not helping anyone try and save any lives there today if in fact we didn't get the whole sale stopped), I surely hope she will find herself with the problems we're having.

So if she posts publically Romney which she said she's trying to protect us from – the public – then everything she wrote yesterday is a lie and she should get here asap and take her horses and put her money where her mouth is.....

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 1:49 PM

*some improvement in the next 3-4 months.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:00 PM

<shows photo of full water barrel>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:01 PM

<shows/sends Romney a photo of a well-nourished Warmblood gelding named "Atlas">

Romney, does Atlas look thin/skinny to you?

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:06 PM

<shows/sends Romney a photo of 2 grey/flea bitten-gray geldings>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:07 PM

Oh, well we are NOT just a dumping ground for horses Romney, and in fact have rescued and re-homed if it was safe to do so for over 20 years. So I get it now, we only get to keep the horses who are in bad shape and she doesn't care about them being skinny if they are old as they aren't suffering? REALLY? She is outta her mind and is shocked by our junk yard facility as evidenced in writing that I will show animal control about manure on the ground (shocking!), one dry water trough when actually my troughs are drank down every day in the summer and that's why I have to water at night sometimes, some long hooves (shocking), she's just being nuts at this point Romeny, but let me show you more photos of horses she said were skinny.....

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:07 PM

Here is Raja and Sultan <Laura Bell referring to the photo sent of the 2 grey geldings> she said were "thin" but they have only been here 5 fucking days.....

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:08 PM

I know, I told her.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:08 PM

<shows/sends photo of BLM Mustang weanling Chica>

BLM Mustang weanling Chica and Izzy in the background

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:09 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a photo of Cinny>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:11 PM

And this is Cinny who has been dewormed 3 times with Ivermectin, so the belly is not worms and is instead a big belly from how much I feed in that Shasta corral as I am getting them through the bot and lice problem. She's probably just a year old, but she is getting better after not having hair from the lice and being thin

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:12 PM

Oh, and the matted tail in the photo that Michelle is so Fen worried about is Peaches who came into the feedlot with her tail like that and I haven't had the time nor the inclination to try and de-tangle it yet.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:15 PM

This is clearly about how ramshackle my place is and because of the equipment, supplies, materials and plain out JUNK we have for our BUSINESS that supports us.....so I guess Michelle can be a little snob and cause us problems, and when horses die because I will simply put them down because "they look bad" even though they'd rather be alive, I sure as shit Michelle will be happy....she is just like Teri C., a facility snob, but I sure as hell didn't expect that of her otherwise I never would have let her come here.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:15 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a photo of a brown gelding>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:17 PM

Gosh, I haven't been able to even deworm Milo yet because he'll jump over the fence if he thinks I'm going to get him, but even without even one deworming yet and he is from the Shasta herd, he is not looking really bad at all....he will be dewormed in grain or with a sponge with cattle dewormer run across his back if I have to.

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:17 PM

Gorgeous horse. <referring to the brown gelding photo>

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:17 PM

I don't think it's about the facility. She did mention some furniture IN some of the corrals which she felt is unsafe. But it was the condition of Guinness that set her off and then pics like this...

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:18 PM

<shows photos of acutely ill horses, and also a chronically neurologically damaged dwarf filly. The neurologically damaged got HCHR A LOT of mileage from the media after our situation went to 57 media outlets, clear to Canada>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:19 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a photo of a palomino gelding in good weight that came to us from his owner under-weight and there was a note sent with the hauler apologizing for his thinness. There is also a comment during the attacks on us by his previous owner Laurie Cole spelling-out how much they were feeding Jack and he wouldn't put on weight according to her because he was "stressed and anxious" all the time.....that is why she sent him to us, so he could just hang-out with his friends and not have to "do" anything>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:20 PM

Then there is Jack who was brought to me by Laurie Duncan MUCH thinner than this and she even apologized for him being thin when she brought him. He also has not been dewormed with ivermectin yet or lice sprayed because they fucked him up when he got loose and ran through the streets of San Diego and was missing for 8 hours, so he is flighty.

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:20 PM

He is handsome.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:21 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a photo with three horses in it>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:21 PM

Then there is Pearl, the reservation mare Goldies daughter who has also been dewormed 3 times and has a big hay belly and not a wormy belly because I feed so much in that pen

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:24 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a photo with several horses in it – explanation to follow>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:24 PM

And now here is poor Faith who is actually looking Much better believe it or not than she did just 3 weeks ago believe it or not.....pardon me that I am more concerned about dealing with bots and lice that can kill them and NOT long hooves that will not.

And the palomino is Goldie who was REALLY skinny just a month ago from the lice and bots and she is the mare that came from the Shasta herd and was so reactionary and nutty that Zena weaned Pearl and gave her to me, but she was shipping Goldie the next day and Rick had a fit so we paid \$750 for her AND Zena MADE me sign a release of liability before we jumped her in my trailer because she didn't want to be sued if Goldie hurt someone when she would run. So yes, her hooves need a trim Romney, because it

took months for her to even stand this close and take hay from our hand, so her hooves are the least of Goldies worries because by rights she should have been slaughtered months ago.

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:28 PM

Laura, I have to run out. Rick said earlier in his message (and I called him back) "I don't understand why you won't talk to us!"

Well, last night I was lost. It was too much. This morning, as I said, I had to get my brain together. I didn't realize my phone was off and didn't even turn it on until 12:30 when I picked it up and realized it was off. That was when I got your messages asking me to call first thing this am. By then I'd gotten your FB message that you were "done with me" and "didn't care if I called or not". I'm so upset over all of this that I wasn't going to force myself or my help on you and wasn't going to call up just to have you tell me how horrible I am.

I've now spent longer than I have in messages and have to jump in the shower, then I'm picking up for Japanese (that I dropped off shopping earlier) and heading to take them and my boys to a Young Americans show at 4pm and then probably dinner. If you want me to call you when I'm home, I don't mind. If you want to talk to me.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:29 PM

And of course, you see Peaches in the last photo and I had to zap her twice with Ivermectin because she started to pick up some lice (which ivermectin kills, as well as killing bots too) and was rubbing on things and dropping a tiny bit.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:35 PM

Romney, there are some chairs outside one of the corrals that a gal was supposed to take the other day for the metal value....and Michelle can screw off about Guinness because I have NEVER dewormed him the first time, let alone twice because that is when we often see the horses get skinny when they may have been heavier but with worms because of the die-off of bots and worms screwing with his gut....THAT is why he colicked on me night before last because I had just dewormed him a second time and the treatment is 3 dewormings 2-3 weeks apart with Ivermectin for treating lice and/or bots which I think he at the very least was very wormy, but also had picked up bots and just started REALLY dropping weight on me 2 weeks ago after the first deworming of ivermectin. Gosh, I sure didn't see Linda offering to pay for his feed, for the dewormers, for floating, for bloodwork, and for trailering, so quite frankly, Linda and Michelle can go screw themselves and if I ever speak to Linda again, I'll make sure she knows that I know she didn't want Guinness because of the awful wounds on his legs while still at the feedlot....gosh, that's funny, Michelle isn't harassing me (yet) about his legs that I DID NOT get the vet out and charge Linda for him to attend to and worked on them myself.....

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 2:36 PM

*should have NEVER dewormed him the first time

I should have just kept throwing him 30# of GREAT QUALITY alfalfa hay a day and not done anything else but tend to his legs and then he would have looked heavier because of a WORM LOAD.....

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:29 PM

<sent photo of metal and fabric chairs outside corral>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:30 PM

Here's more photos of OUR horses that I would hope Romney you make sure Amber, Niki, Michelle see seeing as I will not deal with them anymore....

First, here's the "furniture in the corral", and no, I didn't stage it....

So basically, if my horses are so stupid they can get caught on that little piece sticking into the corral, they deserve to get caught on it and maybe they will pay more attention.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:32 PM

<shows/sent photo of a classic champagne stallion and a gold champagne mare – THESE are the type of horses Michelle was trying to get FOR FREE>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:33 PM

Then we have my stallion Chilly who has been dewormed only once and I'm seeing if he needs a second dose or not.....the gold champagne is his daughter who is 10 years old and she too has only been dewormed once too

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:36 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a photo with two brown mares in good weight in it>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:36 PM

Then we have Zoe and Maple who have been dewormed only once, but since Mr. Gentry brought some lice into this pen from the feedlot and the bad condition he was in, they will all need a second deworming in a few weeks.

And here's Mr. Gentry looking much better even though he had bad rain rot, worms and also lice from the feedlot and he gave the lice to the other horses but the bots they'd already been exposed to earlier in the year by a Shasta mare.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:38 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a photo of my fat Mule Jules>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:40 PM

Heres my mule Jules I got from the kill sale a year or so ago and he had been captured as an stray out in the Nevada desert.....he also has stringhalt where he hikes his leg.....

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:41 PM

Oh, forgot Mr. Gentry.... Lol The rainrot was fixed, but he's going to need another 2 dewormings because he is trying to drop a little weight

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:44 PM

<shows/sends Romney Snyder a current photo date-stamped of a red dun Mustang mare>

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:44 PM

And this is one of my wild mares Autumn who is beautiful but very high strung.....she has only been dewormed once and I snuck up on I'm going to try apple flavored ivermectin gel in sweet feed for the second deworming but overall she's doing alright.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:46 PM

This is a 30 year old Arabian mare who was dumped on me several years ago and was uncatcheablenow setter with Rick and I, but not other people. I haven't even dewormed her yet but will do so in the next week or so now that I have so much more time.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 3:48 PM

And this is grey boy who is approximately 22 years old....he has only been dewormed once, but I will do him again in 2 weeks.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 4:25 PM

Oh, and about the big brown TB that was dumped on me with chronic lymphangitis and chronic LIVER problems, Michelle can certainly have him if she wants because these problems will be with him FOREVER and I have spent a lot of money on him over the years feeding him, deworming him, having cbc's done on him, giving him month long antibiotics, etc to know avail. Now the dwarf filly is probably being put down if the winter is cold, so I'll simply do it this week if Michelle wants me to.

And quite frankly, has Michelle NEVER taken in horses that really need rescuing? And if she really thinks anyone is going to lose their minds over long hooves that take an hour or so to correcton the horses that can be handled, than she is not the person I thought she was.

So please make sure you show your friends the pictures I sent, I will get animal control over here to ask them if they want me to euthanize my dwarf filly Mishca who has been dewormed but in small doses because I'm afraid I will kill her, and I will *post their report for all of you to see.

And by the way, Michelle is pretty cold having that abortion done on that nice mare she got and will flip for good money was a practical decision she made with ease. And Linda want Guinness because of his fucked up legs, so those two are really special and have NO CLUE what rescue is all about. Good for me though that I have plenty of horses in good shape, horses that are coming back into good shape, after a several month nightmare, and yes, some horses with chronic issues that people like Michelle and Linda and a few others can't be bothered to deal with for longer than a couple of months max.

*Note: I called Lyon County Animal Control twice on the weekend and first thing Monday morning August 19, 2013. They came to our place on 8/19/2013 at approx. 9 AM.

After looking at all of the horses and dogs and making sure everyone had water and food, Lyon County issued a Press Release that everything was fine, horses are under a vets care, they have been being taken care of, etc.

THAT is what triggered a full-on domestic terrorism Animal Enterprise Terrorism attack aka "seizure scam"/"rescue raid" and by the afternoon, we were then under criminal investigation because of HCHR/Michelle Cochran/Knuttila ramping-up a MOB of people for "noise and numbers" commenting and posting on Facebook, message boards, twitter, Sharing, emailing, calling, etc every agency they could think of and for every crime they could possibly think of because HCHR NEVER corrected anyone regarding our horses having water, that not all the horses looked bad and that the majority in fact looked good.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 4:46 PM

I really think Michelle should start patrolling families that have special needs people they take care of (and no, I am not saying this because of your children and Rick said it because we feel the same way about animals with issues as people do about taking care of people with issues and special needs) and she could actually be sent out to find families that SHE didn't think were doing right by the person and that person could either go into a facility where they would be taken care of, or perhaps euthanasia for people will become legal and we can have that done instead.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 5:27 PM

And one more thing Romney; Michelle seems to think she can go and do anything she wants on anyones property....she fucked up at the feedlot, accused them of hot-shotting horses and nearly wiped-out our rescues, then she is supposed to pickup a horse by the road, but instead goes onto my property and walks all over my property, and in my corrals, and she did not have permission to do that.

And then, she is going to tell us which horses I have to relinquish, and it won't be the ones with issues (so apparently I don't manage horses well enough to keep the ones that are in good and/or great shape, but I am good enough to keep the ones with chronic issues that no one else wants or cares about in the least? Hmm, that doesn't sound right to me Romney, and it shouldn't sound right to you either), **and if I don't give these horses away that are good for adopting out for a fee and also collecting donations on, she will turn me in AND "go public"?**

Sorry, but that is sounding like blackmail.....

I also wonder why she isn't raising holy hell about the badly snotty noses on at least one of the horses she picked up at the feedlot, but says something about horses here having "eye infections" when they do not.....is that because she can't get good free horses away from Zena because Zena will just ship them, but she knows I won't shiphorses?

This is NOT looking good for Michelle, and if she does go public, I will point out thatwe are the only rescue/people who would take in these horses with severe problems and not just put them down because they can't "do" for people and other rescues and can't be adopted out for a fee.....

Then she

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 5:37 PM

And the fact that you are not defending us concerns us, because we are not the ones misbehaving, she is.....sorry to say, but I also had a conversation with someone that said Michelle is a horse trader, so since she aborted the TB mares foal and that is a *nice horse that will end up being worth a lot of money if trained correctly, it is starting to sound true.....

*when we were doing the slaughter-bound horses rescues at the kill buyers feedlot, The Starlight Sanctuary actually fundraised and were able to buy that nice mare for Michelle Knuttila seeing as she always needed money. All she had to do was donate back to The Starlight Sanctuary the bail/sale price of Kasatska that was paid to the kill buyer, and Michelle could keep whatever she sold the mare for above the original bail price of \$800. In other words, I was always trying to help her and other people out).

And as for Linda, she couldn't even be bothered to rescue Guinness even with more weight on him because "she didn't know his hind legs were that bad"? This is getting more and more evil by the minute and I'm not sure why you would want to be friends with Michelle when her motives obviously were not good because she led you, Niki and Amber to believe that there was not a horse in good shape on my property she was trespassing on but I can furnish at least 3 or more photos of horses that are marginal (recovering from things), good, great, but sometimes with chronic issues that Michelle does NOT

want.....not good at all, and actually like what I'd kind of expect from shysters in the horse biz I've dealt with before.....

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 5:39 PM

*3 or more photos for every one she took, and I also will be HAPPY to talk to anyone about our horses here because I have horses that had a severe bot and lice infestation right at the road that a lot of people from in area and out of area go down, so obviously I was not trying to hide them in the least.

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 8:09 PM

Laura,

As far as defending you to them as they look at Guinness. I have nothing to say. I don't understand it and I can't grasp how it got that bad.

As for in general, I have always brought up things such as the fact that practically every night we are talking you are on the way to pick up hay or flooding your pastures because you are out watering... That a donation came in at a perfect time because you were buying dewormer and doing trims. I had brought up that we had wild horse videos with your horses looking good in the background and tons of photos online of healthy happy sanctuary horses. That clearly the problem started a few months ago and this isn't a long-term problem. All of this HAS been said by me. But unfortunately none of that is relevant to Michelle in light of what she saw.

And she absolutely told us there were some horses in fine condition... Those obviously aren't her focus or concern. And Linda did want to rescue Guinness... She had just made a little comment in passing about his legs (but even said she would take him) and it was you/I who intentionally discouraged the rescue because you were feeling protective of him. So that's not an issue.

And she announced that Kat was pregnant and THEN Kat miscarried. She wouldn't have announced pregnant and then terminated (which you told me you encouraged?). I don't know what you mean by horse trader....She takes in rescues and rehomes.

I don't believe there is intention to take your healthy horses. Nor do I think she has the capacity to take all of the ones she feels are in need. And I'm not necessarily saying she's going to leave the horses with chronic problems. I think it just depends on where she assesses the greatest need to be.

She would like to come up Tuesday morning with some others to haul. They can get them home and do *Coggins later. I don't know how brand inspections would work for this!

Note: a Coggins test and a health certificate is REQUIRED by the Nevada Department of Agriculture any time horses are crossing state lines from Nevada, and many other states too, into surrounding states. It is ILLEGAL to transport horses out of Nevada without a health certificate done within 30 days of the horse leaving the state and a coggins test – have to do a blood draw done by a licensed veterinarian – within 6 months of leaving the State. Romney KNEW this when she wrote the above statement, and was saying they would break the law taking the horses “home” to Escondido, CA. As it was, Michelle left the State with Guinness and his health certificate had expired.

I wish there was someone else who could be in the middle. I hate this and I don't want to be doing this! Wonder if Tam can take over?

I'm at Mom's and we haven't even started dinner and then I think they are wanting to go watch fireworks so looks like I won't be home as early as I thought. It's a crappy weekend timing wise for this to be happening.

Laura Bell 8/17/2013 8:57 PM

Romney, I'm not going to text and PM anymore with you because it is clear who your friends are and I'm sure you're sending everything to Michelle. If you want to call, that is fine.....

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 10:02 PM

Laura, I am not sending everything to Michelle. I sent her the one about which horses you were potentially willing to give up because that was pertinent to her. Is there any chance that Tam wants to coordinate in the middle? I haven't talked to her about this at all but I'm sure she knows. I so badly want out of this spot and then you wouldn't have to second guess what was being said.

I so wish you hadn't posted the *photos today. Michelle wasn't saying where her photos were taken and she wasn't going public with it. It was your photos that clued everyone in and I'm so sad that that's happened. And I can't call... We are still at my mom's and looks like the students want to start a game. So it's going to be a much later night here than I planned.....

Note: I did not post photos (plural) as Romney wrote and is attempting to say I did.

All I did was post 1 photo on our The Starlight Sanctuary Facebook page of the big 1600# Dutch Warmblood Atlas that I had had here for nearly 2 months or thereabouts that Michelle called “thin” and I asked people “does anyone think this horse looks thin? Someone that saw him said he looked “thin” and I wanted to know what other people thought”.

The comments under his photo began coming in and across-the-board were very positive of “he looks awesome”, “who said he's thin, he looks great” and other comments along those lines.

Michelle left an angry comment under her phony name Mi Kanechiwah but deleted it too quickly for me to screenshot it.

So for the record, I posted 1 PHOTO of a horse that we had/have that Michelle called "thin", Michelle went into a rage, and began posting photos on her page that she took when she was trespassing on our property.

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:01 PM

Laura, I don't know exactly which horses she is saying/thinking need to go. That was the problem last night/this morning as I couldn't figure out what solution was needed. I was trying to figure it out before I went to you with nothing but questions and no answers. This has been hell for me. And not that I'm the one who matters in any of this, but it's absolutely awful.

I don't think they know exactly who they feel needs to go until they get there to assess. This isn't about putting their money where their mouth is... they are not a sanctuary, they are a rescue. They're not able to take in horses necessarily with long-term problems or no hope of being rescued out. The Sanctuary-type horses should stay with you.

I'm not pretending to be an expert in horse health and this is not my doing or in my control. I can only hope and pray you understand the horrible position I'm in trying to help.

Romney Snyder 8/17/2013 2:02 PM

No, not in this photo, he does not. (answering my earlier question regarding the Warmblood named "Atlas".

)

BELL EXHIBIT E

Romney Snyder – Final PM

8/19/2013 5:42 PM

Laura,

The last few days have been some of the hardest for me. In the last 8 months you have become a friend, a dear colleague, and a mentor in both rescue and all things equine. We have battled side-by-side saving slaughter-bound horses and both sacrificed more than most will ever imagine. We've been in the trenches together.

When the photos came out, my first instinct and desire was to protect you and all that you had built with The Starlight Sanctuary. But photo after photo it just seemed to get worse.. and then I watched one of the videos and barely made it a minute in without getting physically sick. Then I just sat and sobbed.

I think you are truly one of the biggest-hearted and selfless people I have ever met. I'd say that last week, I'd say that today. You have given literally everything to saving these horses. And I think that once-upon-a-time things were manageable and whether it was the feedlot rescues or the bot and *tick infestation that broke the proverbial camel's back, it clearly became too much. Clearing a bot/tick infestation on ONE horse can be a big job for one person... and you had maybe 20-30? This is not an attack on you, there's not a single person on this Earth that could do all that you are trying to do alone. I wished with all my heart that you had asked for help.

*Romney writes several times that we had a bot and tick infestation. She is wrong – what he had was lice, both blood sucking and skin eating. We also later on determined we had/have sarcoptic mites which cause mange and many internal problems with horses. This includes drastic weight loss, un-thriftiness, ulcers in horses, among other things.

Unlike lice which are species-specific, sarcoptic mites infect and feed on all species. They also get in the soil and contaminate the soil and the "cure" for that is to bleach the ground and not have horses or other animals occupying that are for at least 6 months as per the BLM Wild Horse and Burro adoption facility at Palomino Valley, Nevada.

She can be as ignorant as she wishes to be, but it doesn't change the fact we had bots, blood-sucking and skin-eating lice, and sarcoptic mites, not ticks. One clue to how little Romney knew/knows(?) about horses is that she didn't know what "floating" is.....Horse Husbandry 101.

I don't have a problem with an older horse looking less-than-excellent or on the thin side as many do in the later stages of their life. But we aren't just looking at older, injured and lame

horses. There were so many young, once vibrant, healthy horses that were reduced ribs and hip bones. Even if the problem was truly just the bot/*tick infestation, you needed to reach out for help as soon as it started getting the upper hand to help treat the infected horses long before they reached their current state.

There is no doubt in my mind that you and Rick love the horses. My heart broke into pieces when Michelle first mentioned the critical need to reduce the numbers at your place as I know those are your family members. But the task before you is simply bigger than two people can manage. You have offers from so many different directions and I hope you will take some people up on them. No one wants to take these horses and kill them because they don't look good, we want to rehabilitate them and give them another chance at a great life.

I was trying to stay neutral, but I can't sit here and pretend to be okay with the condition of the horses when, in fact, I'm heartbroken. Sadly, I agree it would be the best interest of some to find their way to new homes that have the resources to get them healthy again. With all that said, I'm here if you want help re-homing any of them. I'm hoping you'll agree now so we can get them into loving homes in the Starlight network before they end up being seized and then who-knows-what happens to them... you know Michelle won't drop the fight just because of a positive AC report.

As time permits I'll revamp the website to not suggest current feedlot operations, but rather highlight the amazing work that has been done. Although my integrity would never permit me to take advantage of my access to the PayPal account, I do suggest changing the password. I will email you an invoice for the website so that you have that for your records to justify the money you sent me.

I would also suggest turning off the ability to do posts or comments to the Starlight FB page for a while, at least until things settle. If you want me to do that I can, unless you've already un-moderator'd me (I haven't checked the page recently).

A few housekeeping notes:

1. The haul for Venice, Hep, Mohave and Ponderosa has been set-up and Deanna is doing it. I think Chris needs to get paid for Hep? We owe \$750 including Coggins.
2. We owe Annie a check for \$400
3. As much as you hate her right now, we do owe Michelle \$400 for Daytona's transport/training and \$300 for Lyric (as we said we'd pay \$100/month for her board/training at HiCaliber). I'd rather not give her another avenue to fight you. If you want me to take care of the above payments (I can PayPal Annie's money to me and then send a personal check so you don't have to deal with it and can PayPal Michelle directly) before you change the password, let

me know. Otherwise, I'm not making any payments from the account without your express permission.

Laura, I care deeply about you and it breaks my heart to have the rescues end like this, you have done so MUCH. I pray you'll take some of the necessary steps to get real help now before it is taken to the next level. I don't want to see you hurt any more than I can imagine you already are, and I don't want to see the Starlight name dragged even deeper through the mud. Again, I'm here.

Romney

Sorry to put this into a letter... I needed to be able to get my thoughts together and make sure I was able to express them all.

BELL EXHIBIT F

Romney Snyder – Final PM

8/19/2013 5:42 PM

Laura,

The last few days have been some of the hardest for me. In the last 8 months you have become a friend, a dear colleague, and a mentor in both rescue and all things equine. We have battled side-by-side saving slaughter-bound horses and both sacrificed more than most will ever imagine. We've been in the trenches together.

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horses. There were so many young, once vibrant, healthy horses that were reduced ribs and hip bones. Even if the problem was truly just the bot/*tick infestation, you needed to reach out for help as soon as it started getting the upper hand to help treat the infected horses long before they reached their current state.

There is no doubt in my mind that you and Rick love the horses. My heart broke into pieces when Michelle first mentioned the critical need to reduce the numbers at your place as I know those are your family members. But the task before you is simply bigger than two people can manage. You have offers from so many different directions and I hope you will take some people up on them. No one wants to take these horses and kill them because they don't look good, we want to rehabilitate them and give them another chance at a great life.

I was trying to stay neutral, but I can't sit here and pretend to be okay with the condition of the horses when, in fact, I'm heartbroken. Sadly, I agree it would be the best interest of some to find their way to new homes that have the resources to get them healthy again. With all that said, I'm here if you want help re-homing any of them. I'm hoping you'll agree now so we can get them into loving homes in the Starlight network before they end up being seized and then who-knows-what happens to them... you know Michelle won't drop the fight just because of a positive AC report.

As time permits I'll revamp the website to not suggest current feedlot operations, but rather highlight the amazing work that has been done. Although my integrity would never permit me to take advantage of my access to the PayPal account, I do suggest changing the password. I will email you an invoice for the website so that you have that for your records to justify the money you sent me.

I would also suggest turning off the ability to do posts or comments to the Starlight FB page for a while, at least until things settle. If you want me to do that I can, unless you've already un-moderator'd me (I haven't checked the page recently).

A few housekeeping notes:

1. The haul for Venice, Hep, Mohave and Ponderosa has been set-up and Deanna is doing it. I think Chris needs to get paid for Hep? We owe \$750 including Coggins.
2. We owe Annie a check for \$400
3. As much as you hate her right now, we do owe Michelle \$400 for Daytona's transport/training and \$300 for Lyric (as we said we'd pay \$100/month for her board/training at HiCaliber). I'd rather not give her another avenue to fight you. If you want me to take care of the above payments (I can PayPal Annie's money to me and then send a personal check so you don't have to deal with it and can PayPal Michelle directly) before you change the password, let

me know. Otherwise, I'm not making any payments from the account without your express permission.

Laura, I care deeply about you and it breaks my heart to have the rescues end like this, you have done so MUCH. I pray you'll take some of the necessary steps to get real help now before it is taken to the next level. I don't want to see you hurt any more than I can imagine you already are, and I don't want to see the Starlight name dragged even deeper through the mud. Again, I'm here.

Romney

Sorry to put this into a letter... I needed to be able to get my thoughts together and make sure I was able to express them all.

BELL EXHIBIT G

Sandy Garretson Libel 8/9/2015 - Posted on Sunday August 9, 2015 in relation to a new post on HiCaliber Horse Rescues page.

1. "You came to the right conclusion Cynthia. I was a neighbor of Laura Bell's and lived quite near the Starlight "Sanctuary". In my opinion, she should have gone to prison. She didn't mostly, because Lyon County does not take animal abuse seriously, even though it is a felony in NV, and because the county could not afford to care for all those starving and neglected horses. HiCaliber is the real deal doing the real thing, not just saying they are doing the right thing.

Sandy Garretson (user name ToTheZooClips and she acknowledges in the comments it is in fact her) Public Comments on 12/20/2013 Under a video Laura Bell publicly posted on 12/19/2013 on YouTube:

"Jesus is not on the side of anyone who starves horses. That would be you." (replying to Laura Bell)"Laura's 50++ horses were allowed to get so thin that legal action had to be taken to prevent further harm to them." What a joke. All of your horses are too skinny. "You are appallingly disconnected from reality, Laura." "She is definitely a hoarder." "I sincerely hope they can prevent her from ever having any horses again. Starlight only became a 501c recently, even though she'd (Laura Bell) tried to pass it off like it'd been a legal 501c all along." "Most curious, NONE of the pics on her web pages are of Starlight."

On HCHR Facebook Page – August 23, 2013 (she never tried to buy a horse from me, EVER, although, she perceives she did for some reason. She also turns people in all over town regarding their horses and we have documented proof of that occurring)

2. I am a horse loving, horse owning neighbor of Laura's and have been bothered by her horse "care" for some time. I tried to buy a horse from her a couple of years ago but she refused to let me. She is definitely a hoarder." (she goes on from here regarding other stuff).

HCHR Facebook Page – Sandy Garretson comment on August 23, 2013 under HCHR post:

3. "Shastine, no one has to make Laura's place, Starlight Sanctuary, look bad. She's doing that all by herself. She's a hoarder and does not let any of her horses get adopted; she just keeps them!!!"

BELL EXHIBIT H

Barbara Weller Defamation – The following were in reply to a 10/4/13 post by Laura Bell on The Starlight Sanctuary Facebook page regarding tainted horse meat in Great Britain.

1. Barbara Weller wrote “Oh and sugar” we don’t like people who starve horses and con people out of money pretending they are a rescue. But you would call me mean spirited to want to see animals cared for? Oh right...”
2. Barbara Weller wrote “We all know you won’t allow anyone to come there, and who I talked to was the animal control officers who were there, because you had to let them. You’re a liar, a thief and have mental health problems. But the worst part is you don’t feed the 60 plus head of horses you hoard and pretend you are saving”.
3. This reply from Barbara Weller was posted on The Starlight Sanctuary Facebook page 12-1-13 replying to a post by Laura Bell. You make it sound like people are making huge profits on a. horses and b. at your expense. You lie Laura, you always have. You need mental health care.
4. On the same post as above Cassandra Zehn made a comment. Barbara Weller wrote to her that “this woman is a hoarder posing as a rescue. She doesn’t feed the horses she gathers by the dozens and she can’t afford to feed them”.
5. Also posted 12-1-13 in reply to Catherine Hodgkins Barbara Weller wrote “some of us find the oidea of 50-60 horses and numerous dogs in unsanitary, unsafe and inadequate quarters slowly starving to death without water or vet or farrier care something to be pretty upset about. She needs help, obviously. But her track record has been pretty grim.”

Plus the following two posts if they qualify.

Kristen Conner HiCaliber Facebook Page 8-21-13. Kristin Connor Someone posted on starlight today with the actual clinical traits of a hoarder. It was pretty enlightening. It really seems like Laura really does not see what is glaringly clear to the rest of us. It is like she has talked herself into believing her excuses. I am hoping someone can somehow get through to her so we can get these animals saved.

Lorie Bump On HiCaliber Facebook Page 8-21-13. Kristin Connor Someone posted on starlight today with the actual clinical traits of a hoarder. It was pretty enlightening. It really seems like Laura really does not see what is glaringly clear to the rest of us. It is like she has talked herself into believing her excuses. I am hoping someone can somehow get through to her so we can get these animals saved.

BELL EXHIBIT I

HiCaliber fundraising fraud

1. Facebook post 8-20-13. ... I applied for 501c3 status and now we wait. Our pending BOD is a variety of... animal related professionals in the community. Didn't file until Oct 16, 2013.
2. Terry Crutchfield shared HiCaliber Facebook post 8-17-13. Please help any way you can. Whether financially by donating to hicaliberhorses@yahoo.com or donating feed, supplements, whatever you can. Every little bit will help!! Please also click the SHARE button on this page. If you share on your timeline and your friends share we can reach thousands in a very short time. These horses (The Starlight Sanctuary Horses) need help NOW!
3. HiCaliber Horse Rescue Romney, your skill and heart are amazing. We are so blessed to call you our friend and member. For others concerned of our role with feedlot sales, please know that HCHR as a group, does not buy from KB's. Michelle worked with SS and the feedlot for sometime to help her make an educated decision about where the rescues funds would be best spent. After all we have learned, it has been decided by the board that we will not do business with any KB's. Our monies are best spent helping the community and buying direct from auction. (Lies to promote fund raising)

BELL EXHIBIT J

Terri Crutchfield Defamation

1. Facebook post 8-19-13. The last time I looked horses were supposed to get BETTER when "rescued". Look at the dates... The left side taken on 8/16/13...The right side in 2011... Lyon county animal control is turning a blind eye to the blatant neglect and abuse of animals at the Starlight Sanctuary ! Please don't let them get away with this...Send this viral...Media needs to get involved... Push this out there..Videos are on YOUTUBE – with Charlotte Olhausen
2. Youtube post 8-19-13. Video #3 was taken at the Starlight Sanctuary on 8/16/13. Keep in mind these videos were taken by a former San Diego ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER... I'm thinking she knows abuse and neglect when she sees it and so do !!!! WTH?
3. Youtube post 8-19-13. Video taken at the Starlight Sanctuary on August 16, 2013. Really Animal Control?? There's NOTHING WRONG HERE? What is wrong with you people?

BELL EXHIBIT K

LeeAnn Miller Defamation

1. Facebook post 8-22-13. Legal channels will be the only way to save the horses and dogs. Sadly, Laura Bell has gone too far and I can't see her getting off lightly. Or her husband, because his name is everywhere, too. Sometimes, no matter how heartbreaking and how much a person means to us, we have to follow the path of what is right and allow people we care about to pay for their crimes. Whether their crimes are moral or legal, it all hurts the same. If animal control had headed prior complaints, maybe Laura would not have escalated so far in her moral crimes against those horses and be facing some pretty serious trouble. By the time this is done, legally, a year or two from now, both of the Bells could face jail or fines large enough to bankrupt them. That is Their doing, and we cannot let pity deter us from our..... that property and have them both banned from ever bringing another animal back on. If by some miracle they escape jail, she can still work to save horses without having them on her property. We just can't let grief for Laura sidetrack us. Whatever happens to Rick and Laura they brought on themselves. We are the ones who will pick up the pieces of those horses and dogs living a miserable life right now.
2. Facebook post 8-22-13. Everyone who donated money HAS to report the fraud to their bank, PayPal and federal law enforcement. Just from my two law classes, so far, I see cause for counts of alleged federal, federal wire fraud, misappropriation of funds, felony animal cruelty, the Mustangs will net them a heap of trouble, possible tax evasion or fraud, because it is highly likely she told the truth about her IRS status. It is also, because of her deliberate creation of false credentials, premeditated on the alleged fraud. The hoarding issue probably came later, or just got worse as the magnitude of her operation increased her stress. What has to happen, is that we all need to tell the Lyon County DA
3. Facebook post 8-22-13. YES!!! Thank you, Julie, lol. I seriously doubt (The Starlight Sanctuary) has that (501(c)3) status, which means tax evasion and tax fraud with the other counts. Unless someone was able to verify their actual status as a non profit. But it has to be more than a couple. Especially the ones who donated and didn't get anything from her, like a horse. The donations is where the authority will be.
4. Facebook post 8-22-13. I get people are reluctant because of prior good acts. The reality still has not sunk in for many. The horses maybe (not in my eyes) can be explained by mental illness, but IF she lied about the non profit status, that means she intended fraud from at least before she advertised herself as one last year.
5. Facebook post 8-22-13. Janie, the answer is no. This is not just a case of criminal animal neglect and hoarding. It is also a highly suspected case of possible fraud. Maybe you saw water and a little food in a couple pens. Obviously it is not what they are used to.
6. Facebook post 8-22-13. She may be cracked, a hoarder, whatever. That is conjecture and building her a defense for her defense attorney. Anything is excusable as long as you have

some sort of mental illness these days. The facts are (I stick with the biggest). 1. She lied and from what anyone can tell, she seemingly solicited money over the internet for false purposes. 2. After getting those thousands of dollars, approximately, each month, she committed heinous acts of neglect and cruelty against the very animals she solicited money for and also withheld some horses from rightful owners for months after their ransoms were paid.

7. Facebook post 8-22-13. No matter what she was before, she is suspected of criminal actions now.. Nothing can be done to get the animals rescued as long as people feel bad for Laura Bell. That is how she got her hands of thousands of dollars not belonging to her, but the horses.
8. Facebook post 8-22-13. The money was for the horses who obviously never saw a dime. For the money thrown her way every month, if the non-profit is real, the organization could hire a full time ranch hand. 40-50 hours a week and think how good it would have done the horses and dogs.

BELL EXHIBIT L

Misc Defamation

1. Facebook post 8-21-13. I have emails from Laura Bell stating that “Guinness is doing well and really putting on weight”. I won’t post the emails here as they are being used as evidence in her prosecution case. Let me tell you Laura Bell – the only thing I could think of after seeing my precious Guinness was the old Pace Picante commercial “get a rope”. You (Laura Bell) should be ashamed of your behavior and clear lack of compassion for a living animal. You are a disgrace to the horse community. Don’t EVER call yourself a rescue. You are a sick human being and you will be stopped from ever owning another animal. I still recall my last email from you, the day Guinness was removed from your hell hole of a “sanctuary” – you wrote “one (once) Guinness leaves I take no responsibility for him”. Really? Please tell me when you ever did take responsibility for his care. For the rest of the Starlight Sanctuary horses that remain in that living hell – help is coming and you will all be saved from that horrible death trap created by Laura Bell.
2. Facebook post 8-17-13. Wow...unbelievable. How can someone not see that this horse was being starved to death? And this horse was “rescued”? I think NOT.
3. Facebook post 8-17-13. HCHR to ...”use any means necessary to bring these horses to safety. To which Linda replies – “Yes you need to do that Michelle. This ABUSE (at The Starlight Sanctuary) needs to stop! If there are more horses that look like this or are worse they need to be pulled out of there immediately. Law enforcement needs to be brought in as well as the media.
4. Facebook post 8-23-13. Mi Kanechiwah keep in mind the feedlot intake weight was no doubt much lighter than when he went to Starlight since he would have been in the “fattening up process” at the feedlot with their round the clock feeding of alfalfa. I’m guess the weight loss was well over 200 pounds for the 70 days in Laura Bells “care”. Shame shame shame
5. Linda McBride Hackney – DEFAMATION - August 29, 2013 – comment on The Starlight Sanctuary Facebook Page
“Sammi and Laura Bell; yes, I have seen the starving horses myself, in fact, I own one of these near death starving horses that you and Laura Bell (since you’re one in the same) have managed to bring to starvation in just over two months. How can you call yourself a sanctuary and do this to a animal. And yes we do have the vet reports on this horse that YOU ABUSED and starved.”
HiCaliber Horse Rescue Facebook Page – August 17, 2013
“Wow..... unbelievable. How can someone not see that this horse was being starved to death? And this horse was “rescued”? I think NOT.”
6. Nicki Branch – Defamation - HiCaliber Facebook Page August 19, 2013
“Rick talks about one horse with special needs. What about the other 19 who were skinny and neglected, babies even??? What is his excuse for those 19 horses ribs showing?”
HiCaliber Facebook Page – August 19, 2013

Oh good! I see Scott Beckstead is a man of his word! Of course, I had to explain to him those pics were of horses at Starlight Sanctuary and not HiCaliber. He had them mixed up on Sunday. OMG”

7. Cody Richardson OnHiCalibers Page under “Recent Posts By Others” August 19, 2013
Starlight Sanctuary (SCAM) run by Laura and Rick Bell located at 4345 Dayton Rd., Silver Springs NV

Avid followers and supporters of the Starlight Sanctuary, many of which have adopted and donated to the non-profit, were devastated and mortified on 8/17/13 when they found out that the Starlight Sanctuary, which houses 60 horses, has starving and emancipated horses.”

“The following videos and pictures were taken by the HiCaliber Horse Rescue group and will further explain and show the details of this scam.”

8. Wendy Stevens – Defamation On The Starlight Sanctuary Facebook page – September 7, 2013
“Puleeze...Laura “loved” them and STARVED them!”

9. Grace Sommers – On The Starlight Sanctuary Facebook Page – August 21, 2013

“And a body count of 1??!!! What the f*ck!!! And if it was so easy to cure why didn’t you and Laura do it. You guys are just pathological liars. Its scary, get help and stop lying!” “You guys starved the horse to the point being emaciated. There are NO excuses.”

- 10.

BELL EXHIBIT M

Misc Defamation

1. Alex Ahonen Facebook posting 8-21-13. You mean to say after all the psycho-babble bullshit, all that poor horse needed was some food!? That woman (Laura Bell) has lost every ounce of dignity and credibility she had left. Everything is just inexcusable and intentionally cruel.
2. Kerri Mayer Facebook post 8-21-13. She's (Laura Bell) posting on the Starlight page again...her bat shit crazy is showing!!!
3. Gretchen Lemoine Facebook post 8-21-13. Michelle, can you send me a copy of this to whoever is conducting the criminal investigation into SL (Starlight Sanctuary) along with Guinness' before and after pictures? Perhaps, the local media would be interested in receiving this, as well. HCHR reply – Already done baby cakes:).
4. Chelle Parsons Facebook Post 8-21-13. Great ending for him but wouldn't some of the others (Starlight Sanctuary Horses) fate been better had they just been left at the kill lot? It's not something I honestly believe in but damn, look at the prolonged suffering in their Sanctuary (Rick and Laura Bell The Starlight Sanctuary)
5. Ashley Boyke Facebook Post 8-21-13. If the IRS and other agencies can prove the funds (funds paid to feed lot by The Starlight Sanctuary to pay horses bail) that were donated were misused (which is apparent), all those who donated and or sponsored should put together a class action lawsuit! To which Jamie Coughlin replied – You know (Ashley) the FBI investigating AC4H was interested in hearing (first hand) stories about any such organization that may have mishandled funds.
6. Summer Holloman Facebook post 8-23-13. I can't see any reason these horse (The Starlight Sanctuary Horses) are still in her care. She really is good at lying and manipulation.
7. Summer Hollomon Facebook post 8-21-13. I called the sheriff and animal services. (about The Starlight Sanctuary) Animal services gave told me to call Josh Foley@775-463-6510 HE IS THE SUPERVISOR HANDLING THE SITUATION. CALL AND KEEP CALLING UNTIL SOMETHING IS DONE ABOUT THIS!!! She (Laura Bell) is lying to them and telling them that these horses are all new rescues and that they came to her in this condition which we all know is ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE.
8. Linda Oswald Spinazzola Facebook post 8-21-13. Call the vets in the area and see which one is supposed to be caring for these animals... I bet you won't find any! Criminals... if they can't handle it they need to reach out and ask for help.
9. Nancy Gilpin Finch Facebook post 8-23-13. So sad...if you do not want an animal...PLEASE do not torture them!!! Surrender them to someone who DOES want them. There is no excuse for this.
10. Christine Kaufman Facebook post 8-23-13. Thank God there are people like you (HCHR) in this world who will take action to protect these beautiful innocent animals (The Starlight Sanctuary Horses) from such cruel and evil treatment. Anyone who would do something like this to a defenseless creature should have to endure the same treatment, Disgusting and unforgivable.

11. Charlotte Olhausen Facebook post 8-19-13. I can not believe this it makes me sick honestly it's probably better to open there corrals and let them free then be in that shit hole with no food and water I'm shocked these animals have not been taken away or the owners shot not kidding that is not ok animals don't have a voice we are their voice. Ugh makes my blood boil. How do we get these horses out of there?
12. Seana Ottinger Facebook post 8-22-13. A friend of mine had dealt with this wacko lady before through another rescue place....they gave her money but she wouldn't give them the horse or the money back...they finally had to threaten her with a lawsuit.
13. Sue Laughlin Heartso Facebook post 8-22-13. Exposing people like this (Laura Bell), hoarding is habitual and ALWAYS Bad for the Animals. Lets get the horses outa there and send in the psychiatrist for her.
14. Amber Clift Facebook post 8-22-13. There some stuff on her bio that I can prove is impossible to be true
15. Summer Hollomon Facebook post 8-22-13. I too think she (Laura Bell) should be punished.
16. Laura McElvany Miller Facebook post 8-21-13. Obviously she (Laura Bell) is sick and needs help.
17. Anne Houghton Facebook post 8-21-13. Are you frigg'n kidding me???? I'm so glad my feelings that she (Laura Bell and The Starlight Sanctuary) was a scam were founded...:(these photos are just heart wrenching and to think she's trying to defend herself. Give it up for the horses sake. This is NOT A SANCTUARY. IT IS HELL
18. Bessie Holdsworth Facebook post 8-21-13. I don't believe not having hay to feed is the issue of why these precious horses are so sickly thin. She has feed as she has repeatedly posted videos of the wild mustangs who roam around her house eating truckloads of hay out of the back of her truck!! She just obviously is nor feeding these poor souls
19. Meighan Tuohey Facebook post 8-21-13. My God!!!! Get those horses out of her (Laura Bell) "care"!!!!!!! That are dying a slow, painful death!!!!!!!
20. Maureen Keo Facebook post 8-21-13. These pictures are truly difficult to look at. These horses are slowly starving to death.
21. Keri Hellige Facebook post 8-21-13. She's a sicko. No vet will euthanize horses for the sake of it. Which means she's going to have to shoot them herself. That makes her more evil than the slaughterhouse.
22. Nancy Gilpin Finch Facebook post 8-23-13. Can we say FOOD< VET and a FERRIER?? They obviously had NONE for a long time
23. Rhea Rogers Facebook post 8-22-13. I don't understand them (The Starlight Sanctuary Horses) not at the very minimum getting water. Water is FREE!!! That alone is very telling. She is an f'd up person and animal control must step in now. The conditions are disgusting and they should all receive proper food, trims and care.
24. Krystie Way Facebook post 8-22-13. The more I see the sicker I get! Don't know how you do it Michelle. I would stay their with a loaded gun waiting for Rick and Laura. Thank God u were there when u were, or these horses would be dead!
25. Chris Jankowski-MacDonald facebook post 8-23-13. Way to go, hang in there Guinness!! God Bless HiCaliber for saving this beautiful boy!! Shame on Lyons county for not moving faster and for Starlight (The Starlight Sanctuary) for letting this happen!!

BELL EXHIBIT N

HiCaliber Defamation

8-20-13 "I am proud to call Romney a friend and board member"

1. Facebook 8-22-13. Laura called a/c back then. Laura snowed them. :/
2. Facebook 8-22-13. Don't put the blame on yourself (Debbie Spears). The responsible parties are the Bells. They conned us. Don't carry their burden.
3. Facebook post 8-20-13. I (Michelle) am aware of Rick Bell's post about me. ...the bottom line is there is nothing he or Laura can say that will ever make the conditions of their ranch acceptable.
4. Facebook Post 8-17-13. I went to retrieve Guinness. He was paid for two months ago and Laura would not present him to buyer. I will post that information as soon as I can.
5. Facebook Post 8-17-13. She (Laura Bell) threw the hay cause she knew I was coming.
6. Facebook post 8-17-13. Summer, she (Laura Bell) must be held accountable. We will not stop exposing evidence until the horses are safe. Clearly it wasn't THAT important to her (Laura Bell) or she would have fed them :(
7. Facebook post 8-22-13. These photos further support The Starlight Sanctuary's failure to provide proper care and attention to the long term equine residents in the custody. Being a rescue ourselves, we understand there are times when the health and condition of an animal will decline; however the amount of animals who have met this fate at Starlight are alarming.
8. Facebook post 8-23-13. We were are willing to take them all! She refused.
9. Facebook post by Rose Higginbotham 8-24-13. Laura admits to not cleaning up the poop. My concern in all the videos is the lack of poop! With four or five horses in each small pen there should be piles everywhere! HiCaliber Horses Rescue replies "if they don't eat, they don't poop."
10. Facebook post 8-23-13. We took in several horses from the Shasta herd last year as well and are very familiar with lice and bots. I saw no evidence of them at The Sanctuary. I think it's a crock of shit to keep people away.
11. I hope the big mouth, rude, know it all bitch (Laura Bell) rots in hell! Just sayin.....

BELL EXHIBIT O

Additional LeeAnn Miller Defamation

1. Facebook post 8-21-13. Why on Earth did it take Michelle going up on a “behind enemy lines” rescue mission in August to finally out Laura, Rick and their sins against animals????
2. Facebook post 8-21-13. Forgive me if I am misunderstanding and am not trying to lump a single soul together with Laura’s ugly one.
3. Facebook post 8-22-13. Okay. I understand. This is at least the second or third time in less than six months that she (Laura Bell) was reported to her local a/c and was able to cover it up. ...if a case can be made against Rick and Laura for fraud the county is now open to be named in a lawsuit for not investigation.
4. Facebook post 8-22-13. Jennifer, it isn’t sad and being “afflicted” does not absolve a married couple (Bells) of the consequences of their moral or legal crimes. We have a country full of overpopulated prisons to prove it.
5. Facebook post 8-22-13. ...because they (Bells) were once nice people now overwhelmed and mental?
6. Facebook post 8-22-13. The facts are that the Bells are killing animals in a cruel and inhumane manner. They are also suspected of some alleged fraud. Those are the facts.

BELL EXHIBIT P

1. Shari Higginbothum – DEFAMATION

Comment on HCHR Facebook Page under HCHR's post of January 4, 2015 libeling us again nearly 18 months after their initial attack on us began:

"That "sanctuary" was recently given many horses from a person that purchased them from a feedlot. I tried telling them the truth, but it fell on deaf ears. Sad for the horses and dogs that live there."

Comment on HCHR page – January 4, 2015 under HCHR post mentioning libeling us nearly 18 months after their attack on us began.

"I was truly horrified to see that the dogs were kept in those conditions. And of course the horses too."

On American Wild Horse Preservation Campaigns Facebook page – 12/9/2014:

"You do realize the starlight sanctuary is not a good place! I would euthanize an animal before I sent it there."

2. Lacey Ford – DEFAMATION

On The Starlight Sanctuary Facebook page in comments under one of our posts – December 2, 2013:

"Laura is a nut job in sick desperate pathetic denial. I've done my research, I have my opinions... I dare you to sue me for it!!! Loony tune, screenshot this you animal abuser!"

"God, you have no apparent mental capacity. Get help!!!"

3. Anita Nelson – Defamation

Comment on a post on HiCalibers Facebook Page under "Posts By Others – Grace Sommers" – August 20, 2013:

"That gave me the warm and fuzzies. NOT!!! Those horses were not fed and they clearly had no water.."

BELL EXHIBIT Q

Michelle Knuttila/Michelle Cochran/HiCaliber Horse Rescue/Chevelle Justice – Defamation:

Transcribed from “Starlight Sanctuary” videos 1-6 she took on The Starlight Sanctuary property on August 16, 2013:

Video 1: “No water”:26

Video 1: “there’s two babies up there that are almost dead” 1:50

Video 1: “This is what I’ve been telling people all along. This is why I stuck it out.” 2:08

Video 2: “There’s another baby malnourished”. :06

Video 2: “wormy as all hell” :20

Video 2 “who are you bubs? Skinny, skinny, they’re everywhere....” :24-:28

Video 2: “skinny...” :48

Video 3: “Holy f*ckin’ shit <sigh> starlight sanctuary alright...tryin’ to get the hell in-and-outta here before she gets back, but this is the condition of every f*cking animal on this property”. 1:29-1:54

Video 4: “stall with furniture and rope” :04 (reclining chair was where I would sleep next to a wild Mustangs corral when I was “gentling” him and integrating into our “herd of 2”).

Video 4: “this is what your money is funding people” :50 (accusing us of being “donation-funded” at the sanctuary when we are not. She is the one that does what she accuses us of).

Video 4: “hi hungry...you guys haven’t been fed.....OH MY GOSH, O.K. <sigh>....look at the feet on this one..look at the feet on this poor guy, holy shit....this is the sanctuary, this is fucking disgusting... :55-1:15

Video 4 (continued): “hi guys, I know you’re hungry 1:24-

Video 4; “skin and bones, everybody.....everybody 1:40-1:59

BELL EXHIBIT R

Misc. Libel on HCHR Facebook page under yet another post/s about The Starlight Sanctuary and/or Laura and/or Rick Bell:

1. Shari Higginbotham: August 19, 2013 "It's a mental problem. She needs a doctors help. And so do the horses."
2. Rachel Gazes: August 8, 2013: "I am absolutely sickened to see this video. I had offered to take Titan home when he was on the page, in fact, I had the money and everything set, including appointments for therapy until Laura decided to keep him for herself so he could have "special care". Since when does that include starving him?! Absolutely sickening.

On HCHR Facebook page – in comments regarding HCHR post of January 4, 2015 and their reference to our sanctuary and referral to August 18th, 2013 videos of our place – January 4, 2015

3. Li Brown: "I can't believe it was that long ago, seems like just yesterday. That "sanctuary" is still in "business". (I've been keeping an eye on it). Shaking head in disbelief."
4. Jane Hendron – comment on HCHR FB page January 4, 2015 – "Sad to see on Starlight Sanctuary's Facebook page, it looks as though they now have some Mustangs in there. Last post showing horses on the property (with baling twine holding the corrals together) was Dec 10 2014. The cycle of hoarding. ugh!!!! Now it also appears there is a band of wild mustangs walking around on the property."
5. Lisa Bedell – comment under HCHR's January 4, 2015 post libeling us. Lisa is one of our stalkers I have photos and video of. "Just drove by there on my way to Carson. Yes, lots of horses piling up again. I'll try to get a closer look soon." Lisa Bedell – comment under HCHR's January 4, 2015 post - nearly 18 MONTHS AFTER HCHR's initial attacks on us began. Lisa Bedell is one of our stalkers and the reason I won't leave my property unattended for any length of time. "I'll call Lyon County tomorrow and raise some hell. They can at least monitor her." Lisa Bedell – January 4, 2015 comment on HCHR's FB page post, admitting she illegally "false reports" on me because I do not feed the Mustangs intentionally and they wander on our UNFENCED property: "Yes, she feeds the Mustangs, which is illegal. I've turned her in before."
6. Theresa Carter – comment under HCHR's January 4, 2015 post libeling us. "WAIT!!!! WHAT???? Starlight is back in "Business"... How in the Name of all that is Good could this be happening again???? NI thought she was being investigated for criminal charges??? WTF???"
7. Wendy Stevens – comment under HCHR's January 4, 2015 post libeling us nearly 18 months AFTER the initial attack began on August 17, 2013 "Also, if I'm not mistaken LB recently wrote about how they have purchased a new property and are moving and awhile back also mentioned that she was trying to get her sanctuary "hospice status"...whatever that may mean. Maybe to excuse the poor condition of some of the horses?"

8. William Hugill comment – August 18, 2013 on HCHR Facebook page under one of their posts: “Turns my gut inside out to see this maltreatment. I guess I’ll be working a couple of extra days this week to help HCHR to care for these poor things.”
9. Darrel Uselton – August 18, 2013 on HCHR’s Facebook Page Under One of Their Posts. “As a recent rescuer of 4 (2 delivered <TX>, 2 more pending) Starlight I’m just sick. Angry about what I see, angry that I didn’t trust my initial instincts that something wasn’t right... OMG...”
10. Connie M Ennis – comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 18, 2013: “makes me cry..... so sad those horses depend on people to be fed, and they are starving to death. wish I was closer”
11. Sue LaLancette - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 18, 2013: “Looks like Nevada. Who the hell is this person with the horse’s ?? CAN WE SAY , HOARDER ☹ MY GOD ! Why hasn’t somebody done something about this ???”
12. Laurie Hannenberg - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 18, 2013: “Thank you for bringing this to light. I am disgusted and have absolutely no sympathy for her. Hoarder be damned. Those horses are suffering immensely. I hope to God whomever is in the area will do whatever it takes to get those horses some food, water and decent care.”
13. Ashley Boyke - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 18, 2013: WHERE IS THEIR WATER ?????!!! I am SO SO SO angry right now!!! What can I do? I don’t have money is there ANYTHING I can do though??” Ashley Boyke - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 18, 2013: “With as little food as there getting (or not at all) I am surprised at the amount of the manure in the pens”
14. Dan Winder- comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 18, 2013: “she should be chained to a post and let her dogs and horses feed on her”
15. Beth Kurtz - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 19, 2013: “Were are the people who have not taken care about the horses. They need to going to be put in JAILfor all these horses they need care so or they will die without food or water”
16. Jo Turner - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 19, 2013: “That is so sick NO WATER beside conditions. Hope they are eating Wonder how many colic with NO WATER...sickening sanctuary.”
17. Shana Llewellyn - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 19, 2013: OMG ! How tragic. That woman is sick! Thank you for exposing her.
18. Rachel Jones Blakely - comment on HCHR Facebook page under their post – August 22, 2013: “not only do the horses look horrible, but the conditions are deplorable !! Unacceptable corrals or pens...”
19. Trish Geltner – August 17, 2013 on HCHR’s Facebook page under their post: “That’s no sanctuary that’s a hell hole. Ughhh.”
20. Mandy Gracie - HCHR Facebook page – Post as “Post By Others” – August 18, 2013 “Thank for bringing to light the horrific conditions at SS. You have quite the undertaking ahead of you, but as someone who has supported, promoted and been taken by them I am grateful for what you are doing.”

21. Rachel Bendler – comment on HCHR’s Facebook Page Under Their Post About Us – August 30, 2013 “Also, as someone who has dealt with starvation cases (yes, these are STARVATION CASES),”
22. MsDancegenie: Comment for Starlight Sanctuary Video 6 – 8/1/14: “This is nothing more than a junkyard full of starved horses. WTF”
23. Tell Sackett – On HCHR Facebook Page under “Posts By Others” – August 18, 2013 “Laura Bell, you are a sanctimonious, self-righteous pice-of-garbage! You spew lies and half-truths, and now you are being called out.
I have seen the pictures and videos of your “sanctuary”, and you should, and WILL, be held accountable.” “While you were out vomiting your lies, other respectable, righteous horse people decided to check your credentials, and were they enlightened. Need I remind you, these are your peers, and they were appalled.
24. Nicki Branch – Defamation – HiCaliber Horse Rescue Facebook page – August 18, 2013 “Unless she gets forced to comply with basic neglect laws, and they seize horses, I doubt she will give them up. So sad. Hoarding is a mental condition that makes it very hard to get owners to reduce the numbers of animals they have. I hope she would own up to their neglect and recognize they need to be placed.”
25. Sarah Morse – On The Starlight Sanctuary page – August 18, 2013 “A quick death is far better than being slowly starved by Laura. Until all animal’s are removed and she’s in jail for stealing donations as well as being sick in the head.....”,

BELL EXHIBIT S

1. Deborah Glick – There are 20 to 30 horses starving in Silver Springs on Dayton Ave. It is supposed to be a sanctuary, Starlight. This Defamation was posted on the internet at approximately 8:45 A.M. on 11/19/15. This statement was posted with a photo of the only sick underweight hospice horse on the property.