

STATE COURT OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

SHANE RAMSEY,
PLAINTIFF

VS.

YANCY FORD AND
JAMIE WELLS,
DEFENDANTS.

Civil Action No.:STCV2023000435

DEFENDANT YANCY FORD'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

Defendant Yancy Ford, by and through his undersigned counsel, respond to Plaintiff's ("Complaint") as follows:

FIRST DEFENSE

Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and therefore, should be dismissed.

SECOND DEFENSE

The allegations contained in Plaintiff's complaint seeking to recover punitive damages are inadequate as a matter of law and that the facts and circumstances complained of by the Plaintiff are insufficient legally to impose an award of punitive damages against Yancy Ford. Moreover, Plaintiff is not entitled to collect an award of punitive damages from Defendant Ford because an award of such damages would violate due process, equal protection, and excessive fine clauses of the Georgia and United States Constitutions.

THIRD DEFENSE

Plaintiff fails to state a cause of action and/or entitlement to relief for attorney's fees and punitive damages.

FOURTH DEFENSE

Plaintiff's damages, if any, were caused by unforeseeable, intervening causes which bar any recovery by Plaintiff against this defendant. Plaintiff's alleged injuries were not foreseeable and are too remote to provide for a recovery from this Defendant.

FIFTH DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred as a matter of law under O.C.G.A. § 9-2-5 and O.C.G.A. § 9-2-44; accordingly, this action should be dismissed.

SIXTH DEFENSE

Defendant is entitled to the defense of official immunity and Plaintiff is barred from seeking and obtaining some or all of the relief sought by virtue of the doctrine of official immunity.

SEVENTH DEFENSE

Without waiving any of the foregoing defenses, Defendant hereby responds to the separately numbered paragraphs of Plaintiff's Complaint as follows:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1.

Defendant admits that Plaintiff was formerly employed in the Effingham County School District, and is without sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.

2.

Defendant admits the allegations of Paragraph 2 of the Complaint.

3.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

4.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations whether Defendant Wells resides in Effingham County and denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 4 of the Complaint.

Factual Background

5.

Defendant admits the allegation of Paragraph 5 of the Complaint.

6.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 6 of the Complaint.

7.

Defendant admits only that Ramsey was a baseball coach at Effingham County High School, and denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

8.

Defendant admits only that Ramsey is a baseball coach at a school in Rome, Georgia and denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 8 of the Complaint.

9.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

10.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 10 of the Complaint.

11.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations as to whether Wells knew the athletic director, and denies remaining allegations of Paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

12.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

13.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

14.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

15.

Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

COUNT ONE
TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL
RELATIONS

16.

Defendant incorporates herein the responses to paragraphs 1 through 15 of Plaintiff's Complaint above as if fully restated.

17.

Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations as to whether Plaintiff had a valid contractual relationship, and denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

18.

Defendant admits only that he is not a party to any contract with Plaintiff, and denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 18 of the Complaint.

19.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

20.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

21.

Defendants denies the allegations of Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

22.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 22 of the Complaint.

COUNT TWO
DEFAMATIONS/SLANDER

23.

Defendant incorporates herein the responses to paragraphs 1 through 22 of Plaintiff's Complaint above as if fully restated.

24.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 24 of the Complaint.

25.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

26.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 26 of the Complaint.

27.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 27 of the Complaint.

28.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 28 of the Complaint.

29.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

30.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 30 of the Complaint.

COUNT THREE
DEFAMATION/LIBEL

31.

Defendant incorporates herein the responses to paragraphs 1 through 30 of Plaintiff's Complaint above as if fully restated.

32.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 32 of the Complaint.

33.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 33 of the Complaint.

34.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 34 of the Complaint.

35.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 35 of the Complaint.

36.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 36 of the Complaint.

37.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 37 of the Complaint.

38.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 38 of the Complaint.

COUNT FOUR
CIVIL CONSPIRACY/AIDING AND ABETTING

39.

Defendant incorporates herein the responses to paragraphs 1 through 38 of Plaintiff's Complaint above as if fully restated.

40.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 40 of the Complaint.

41.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 41 of the Complaint.

42.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 42 of the Complaint.

43.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 43 of the Complaint.

44.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 44 of the Complaint.

45.

Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 45 of the Complaint.

GENERAL DENIAL

All allegations of Plaintiff's Complaint which have not been admitted, denied, or otherwise responded to above, are hereby denied.

Based on the foregoing, Defendant states that Plaintiff is not entitled to any of the relief

prayed for in the Complaint.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered, Defendant prays for judgment in their favor and against the Plaintiff, to be discharged without costs and to be awarded such costs, attorney's fees and relief as this Court may deem equitable and proper.

This 3rd day of January, 2024.

**PEREIRA, KIRBY,
KINSINGER & NGUYEN, LLP**

s/ Aparesh Paul


Aparesh Paul

Georgia Bar No. 362648

s/ Brian C. Smith

Brian C. Smith

Georgia Bar No. 001306



210 Washington Street NW Ste. 203
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Telephone: (770) 534-7341
Facsimile: (770) 532-0399
Email: apaul@pkknlaw.com
bsmith@pkknlaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT
YANCY FORD

www.TheGeorgiaVirtue.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney does hereby certify that he has this date electronically filed the ***DEFENDANT YANCY FORD'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT*** with the Clerk of the Court using the e-filing system, which will automatically send notification of such filing to the attorney(s) of record.

This 3rd day of January, 2024.

**PEREIRA, KIRBY,
KINSINGER & NGUYEN, LLP**

s/ Aparesh Paul

Aparesh Paul
Georgia Bar No. 362648

210 Washington Street NW Ste. 203
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Telephone: (770) 534-7341
Facsimile: (770) 532-0399
Email: apaul@pkknlaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

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