

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MARION)

IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CRIMINAL DIVISION 6

STATE OF INDIANA

v.

Cause No. 49G06-1707-F6-01619

LOU SLIPPS

Defendant.

STIPULATIONS

Note: No witness may contradict or deny knowledge of the facts contained in the stipulations.

1. All exhibits included in these Case Materials are authentic and accurate in all respects; no objection to the authenticity of these exhibits will be entertained. Unless stated otherwise herein, the admissibility of the exhibits on other grounds may be challenged.
2. All witness statements were signed by each witness under oath on or about July 17, 2017.
3. Exhibits 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 are admissible without objection and do not need to be offered through a witness.
4. Robin Goodes' fingerprints were on the bricks located on the premises of Ghostly Paths as a result of the vandalism on or about November 1, 2016. There are no objections to the validity of the fingerprint analysis or the chain of custody of the bricks.
5. Robin Goodes has a criminal record of three prior felony convictions.
6. Robin Goodes entered into a Plea Agreement in connection with the November 1, 2016 vandalism and theft at Ghostly Paths. In exchange for cooperating with the State and identifying Lou Slipps as the mastermind of the crimes against Ghostly Paths, and agreeing to undergo a psychological assessment and therapy for anger management, the State agreed to dismiss all counts against Goodes, except a Criminal Trespass, level 6 felony. The State also agreed to not pursue additional sentencing as a habitual offender.
7. At the discretion of Slipps' legal counsel, and upon court approval, Robin Goodes may be treated as a hostile witness by the defense.

49 Ghostly Paths has received some criticism that it is not authentic, and disseminates untruths about
50 the people or events in its stories. We are not scientists or paranormal hunters. Although the sources for
51 the stories vary, they are mostly based on true historical facts, legends, or myths, all taken with some
52 literary license for entertainment. The historical facts, of course, are documented and substantiated. But,
53 legends and myths are a part of folklore that may not be verifiable.
54

55 In June, 2016, Lou Slipps posted a blog about Ghostly Paths just as the tourist season was to
56 begin. Exhibit 1 is a true and accurate copy of the Slipps' blog about Ghost Tours that was posted on
57 June 9, 2016. Slipps, tried to discredit my business. Slipps went so far as to say Ghostly Paths was a
58 fraud and scam. After the blog was posted, Ghostly Paths experienced some cancellations of reservations
59 and requests for refunds for tours. Slipps fashions himself/herself as a journalist but really Slipps is just a
60 bully hiding behind the computer. I felt it was necessary for me to respond to Slipps' slanderous
61 indictment of Ghostly Paths. So, I shot off a response and posted it to Slipps' blog page on June 12,
62 2016. Exhibit 2 is a true and accurate copy of my response of June 12, 2016 to Slipps' Blog.
63

64 Slipps confronted me at the store within two or three days after I posted my response to the Blog.
65 Slipps said that "I underestimated the power of words" and that he/she "could destroy my business." It
66 was as if Slipps had some personal vendetta. For the next several months, I felt that Slipps was stalking
67 me – like some sort of paparazzi waiting for an "I gotcha moment." Slipps showed up in the store a few
68 times looking at items for sale. Misty thought she saw Slipps at some of the walking tour locations,
69 conveniently at just the precise time the tour group would stop there.

70 Okay, so I did a dumb thing. It was nothing criminal, but in hindsight was probably in poor taste.
71 As a result, I was persecuted through public shaming by a firestorm of haters. So, here's how my life
72 unraveled before my eyes. On a Friday night, October 21, 2016, a small circle of seven of my closest
73 friends from college got together in Indianapolis for some pre-game festivities before the Northwestern
74 Homecoming game against Indiana. It was our ten year reunion graduating from Northwestern.
75 Indianapolis was a central meeting spot for everyone prior to travelling to Evanston for the game on
76 Saturday. Ten years prior, we had all wondered where our dreams and hopes would lead us. I was
77 looking forward to showing my friends not only the success of my business, but that I found my dream
78 job, thriving on my creative expression through storytelling. My friends were supportive of my Ghostly
79 Paths venture and intrigued by my online postings of ghost story teasers. They talked me into giving
80 them a special ghost tour at Crown Hill Cemetery on that Friday night. I wanted to make it memorable
81 and fun. I brought extra props and extra performers to pull out all of the stops. I gave the performance of
82 my life. We had a blast. We joked. We laughed. I thought, "This is a night that we would never forget."
83 I didn't realize at the time how prophetic that statement would become.

84 One of the silly props that I brought to the cemetery was a fake gravestone marker. Exhibit 3 is a
85 photograph that accurately depicts the grave marker as it was placed in the cemetery on Friday, October
86 21, 2016. The photograph was taken by one of my friends while we were touring Crown Hill Cemetery
87 that evening. I placed the fake grave marker next to the grave of President Benjamin Harrison. I propped
88 it up by resting it on a small American flag that was in the ground at the gravesite. The fake grave marker
89 was just a joke. I thought it was funny because President Harrison died of complications from the flu.
90 My friends laughed. We thought it was hilarious. One of my friends snapped a photo of the newly placed
91 grave marker.

92 The next morning, I posted reunion photos on Cheez.com, a social media and networking website
93 where friends can share photos, videos and brief comments with their social network of friends. One of
94 the photos posted was the now infamous President Harrison fake grave marker. On my Cheez page, I

347

Statement of Aaron/Erin Guntley

348 My name is Aaron/Erin Guntley. I have been retained by the prosecution to provide my expertise
349 in this case. I am a Professor in Social Psychology at Indiana University in Bloomington. Exhibit 9 is a
350 true and accurate copy of my Curriculum Vitae. It was prepared by me and I have personal knowledge of
351 the contents therein. My curriculum vitae is kept in the course of my profession, and it is the regular
352 practice for me to make such records.

353
354 Given my specialized expertise in social psychology, I am often asked to testify as an expert. I
355 have testified in 25 criminal cases in federal and state courts in Indiana. I have been retained as an expert
356 for the prosecution in approximately 80% of the cases. I have also testified in 8 civil cases; all expert
357 testimony in the civil cases has been for the plaintiff. As an expert witness, I am paid \$1,000 for an initial
358 consultation and any trial testimony is billed at \$450.00 per hour.

359
360 Public shaming or public humiliation has been around for centuries. In colonial times, a person
361 might be flogged in public. For lesser evils, the transgressor would be subjected to wearing a sign or
362 symbol, while other wrongdoers were placed in stockades in the town square.

363
364 One reason to punish by shaming is deterrence. The idea is that people will not, or be less likely
365 to, engage in shameful activity. Another reason is retribution. Shaming is a way of equalizing the harm
366 done. Theoretically, the punishment should be comparable in severity to the harm done.

367
368 As the evolution of the internet has gone into hyper speed, so has the use of the internet, and
369 particularly social media, for public shaming. The prevalence of shaming through social media has
370 multiplied exponentially. Blogs dedicated to shaming now populate internet space. At first, it was fairly
371 tame – people complaining about poor service at some restaurant or the airlines. Then, it got meaner.
372 Cyberbullying has become prevalent in society. Internet users make a sport out of trolling targets. Calling
373 out an individual through social media isn't simply saying something is "not cool." Rather, it is a request
374 to have someone put in the digital stocks, where a potentially unlimited number of people can throw
375 digital stones at them. The Internet mob acts as judge, jury, and executioner and flogs the target in the
376 internet town square. And it turns out to have real-life consequences for everyone involved. Overnight, a
377 private individual can become publicly humiliated worldwide. On the internet, there are no parameters or
378 restrictions of how large the crowd can be for public shaming.

379
380 Two fundamental problems are inherent with social media flogging. First, shaming often is a
381 knee jerk reaction and snap judgments. Postings to the internet, replies, and responses occur at lightning
382 speed. Often there is very little information about the target, sometimes only a single tweet. Yet there is a
383 presumption of guilt and swift move toward judgment, with no process for ascertaining facts. "Facts" go
384 unchecked because of the lack of standards for fact-finding. People base their opinions on unchecked
385 statements. Words or photos can be taken out of context, and are only a snapshot of what is happening, or
386 what has been said, but it may become the whole story instead. Other postings may be attributed to the
387 wrong person, or even misrepresented, intentionally or accidentally. Consequently, an online witch hunts
388 is borne out of dangerous speculation that took place on the website.

389
390 The second fundamental problem of social media shaming is that often the punishment goes
391 beyond the scope of the supposed crime. Too many internet shame campaigns dispense punishments that
392 are too severe for the crime. Shaming is justified as serving the greater good. But, the fact remains that
393 the shamer is still just a bully. Social media has created an aggressive culture of public shaming in which
394 individuals purposely inflict psychological damage. Moreover, internet speech can be cruder and crueler