

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

GEORGE ZIMMERMAN  
Polk County, FL

Plaintiff,  
v.

SYBRINA FULTON  
Citizen of Florida

**COMPLAINT**

And

BENJAMIN CRUMP  
Citizen of Florida

And

RACHEL JEANTEL  
Citizen of Florida

And

BRITTANY DIAMOND EUGENE  
Citizen of Florida

And

TRACY MARTIN  
Citizen of Florida

And

BERNIE DE LA RIONDA  
Citizen of Florida

And

JOHN GUY  
Citizen of Florida

And

ANGELA COREY  
Citizen of Florida

And

FLORIDA DEPT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

]

And

THE STATE OF FLORIDA

And

HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS L.L.C

Defendants

## I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff George Zimmerman ("Zimmerman") brings this action against Sybrina Fulton ("Fulton"), Rachel Jeantel ("Jeantel"), Brittany Diamond Eugene ("Eugene"), Tracy Martin ("Tracy Martin"), Benjamin Crump ("Crump"), Bernie de la Rionda ("de la Rionda"), John Guy ("Guy"), Angela Corey ("Corey"), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement ("FDLE"), and the State of Florida ("Florida") in their individual and official capacities where applicable for violations of Zimmerman's constitutional rights under the Florida Constitution, as well as the United States Constitution, as well as the common law, for conspiring to switch and/or cover up

the identity of Defendant Eugene who was the real phone witness to the events prior to Trayvon Martin's ("Trayvon Martin") death, by substituting an imposter and fake witness, Defendant Jeantel, and to assist Defendant Jeantel in committing perjury in sworn testimony to cause the arrest, prosecution, and sentencing to life in prison of George Zimmerman, as well as causing a federal investigation and prosecution of Zimmerman for civil rights violations.

Defendants Crump and HarperCollins Publishers ("HarperCollins") have defamed Zimmerman in Defendant Crump's new book published by Defendant HarperCollins on October 15, 2019, entitled *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*, with actual malice knowing the untruth or at a minimum a reckless disregard for the truth.

## **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This is an action for damages in excess of \$15,000.00 exclusive of interest, costs and attorneys' fees.

2. Venue is proper in Polk County, Florida, as Plaintiff Zimmerman is a resident of this county and judicial circuit and citizen of Florida.

## **III. PARTIES**

3. George Zimmerman is an individual, natural person, who at all material times was and is a national citizen and a resident of the state of Florida.

4. Defendant Sybrina Fulton is a former employee of Miami-Dade County, head of the Trayvon Martin Foundation, and currently a politician running as a 2020 Democrat candidate for the Miami-Dade County Commission, District 1 seat. Defendant Fulton is the mother of Trayvon Martin (deceased), ex-wife of Defendant Tracy Martin and a citizen and resident of the state of Florida.

5. Defendant Rachel Jeantel is the half-sister of Brittany Diamond Eugene. Defendant Jeantel's mother is Marie Eugene, who is also the biological mother of Brittany Diamond Eugene. After dropping out of Miami Norland Senior High School, Defendant Jeantel graduated from A.C.E. high school in Miami at age twenty-one. Defendant Jeantel is a citizen and resident of the state of Florida and has no known employment.

6. Defendant Brittany Diamond Eugene is a 2019 graduate of Florida State University where she was a criminal justice major. She is a resident and citizen of the state of Florida. Defendant Eugene recently worked at Pandora Jewelry store in Tallahassee. Defendant Eugene is the half-sister of Rachel Jeantel. Like Defendant Jeantel, Defendant Eugene's biological mother is Marie Eugene, though she was apparently raised by Eliana Eugene who is believed to be a relative of Marie Eugene.

7. Defendant Tracy Martin is a former employee of Cisco Systems where he worked as a truck delivery driver. Defendant Tracy Martin had served 5 years in prison in his twenties for being a drug courier. Defendant Tracy Martin is the father of Trayvon Martin (deceased), ex-husband of Defendant Fulton and is a resident and citizen of the state of Florida.

8. Defendant Benjamin Crump is a Tallahassee-based attorney and founder of the law firm Ben Crump Law. Defendant Crump became the attorney for Defendants Tracy Martin and Fulton beginning on February 28, 2012 and led efforts to incite the public against Zimmerman and pressure the Sanford police and state of Florida to arrest and prosecute him. Defendant Crump obtained a substantial financial settlement from the Retreat at Twin Lakes homeowners association on behalf of for Defendants Tracy Martin and Fulton. As a result of Zimmerman's trial, Defendant Crump became a nationally known as a self-styled civil rights attorney who represents clients who allege racial bias and police misconduct. On October 15,

2019, Defendant Crump published a book with Defendant HarperCollins entitled *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*. He is a resident and citizen of the state of Florida.

9. Defendant Bernie de la Rionda is a retired Assistant State Attorney in the fourth judicial circuit in the State of Florida. He was the lead prosecutor in State of Florida vs. George Zimmerman and a resident and citizen of the state of Florida.

10. Defendant John Guy is a former Assistant State Attorney who prosecuted George Zimmerman with Defendant de la Rionda. Defendant Guy is currently a 4th Judicial Circuit judge and a resident and citizen of the state of Florida.

11. Defendant Angela Corey is a former Florida State's Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court. She served as Special Prosecutor to investigate the death of Trayvon Martin and was in charge of the State of Florida vs. George Zimmerman case. Defendant Corey is a resident and citizen of the state of Florida. Just after Zimmerman was acquitted by the jury, Defendant Corey called Zimmerman a "murderer" in a TV interview.

12. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is a Defendant whose mission is "to promote public safety and strengthen domestic security by providing services in partnership with local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and solve crimes while protecting Florida's citizens and visitors."

13. The state of Florida is a Defendant.

14. Defendant HarperCollins Publishers is a New York City based publisher that describes itself as "the second-largest consumer book publisher in the world" and notes that it "has been entertaining, educating, and inspiring generations of readers for 200 years." It is owned by News Corp, "a global diversified media and information services company", whose CEO and owner is Rupert Murdoch and the Murdoch sons.

#### **IV. STANDING**

15. Plaintiff George Zimmerman ("Zimmerman") has standing to bring this action because he has been directly affected, harmed, and victimized by the unlawful conduct complained herein. His injuries are proximately related to the conduct of Defendants, each and every one of them, jointly and severally, and acting in concert.

#### **V. FACTS**

16. The facts pled in this Complaint, which set forth the injury suffered by Plaintiff, were only recently discovered by Plaintiff Zimmerman on or about September 16, 2019 through the publication of the book and film by Hollywood director Joel Gilbert, both entitled *The Trayvon Hoax: Unmasking the Witness Fraud the Divided America*.<sup>1</sup>

17. September 16, 2019 was the earliest possible date that Plaintiff Zimmerman could have, and did in fact, discover the subject illegal acts and practices of the Defendants which harmed him. October 15, 2019 was when Plaintiff became aware of the book published by Defendants Benjamin Crump and HarperCollins and disseminated widely in this circuit, Florida generally and nationally and internationally.

18. Defendants, each and every one of them, as individuals and through their employment and agencies, have worked in concert to deprive Zimmerman of his constitutional and other related legal rights.

19. Defendants (except HarperCollins), each and every one of them, instituted, ordered, commanded, conspired, and covered up the illegal substitution of Defendant Eugene, a legitimate phone witness to the days, hours and minutes before the death of Trayvon Martin,

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<sup>1</sup> The book can be accessed here: <https://www.thetrayvonhoax.com/book/>

The DVD can be accessed here: <https://www.thetrayvonhoax.com/film/>

with Defendant Jeantel, an imposter and fake witness, who told a made to order false storyline to prosecutors in order to cause Zimmerman to be arrested, tried, and convicted for second degree murder and sentenced to life in prison in a case that had already been investigated and closed by the Sanford, Florida police department, and after they had already exonerated Zimmerman, having concluded Zimmerman had acted in self-defense with no probable cause for arrest based on eye-witness testimony, physical evidence, and 911 audio recordings.

20. Defendants (except HarperCollins), acting individually and in concert with each other, made a concerted effort to violate Zimmerman's constitutional rights and cause him to be arrested and put on trial for murder, with the goal of imprisoning him for life by covering up their knowledge of the identity of the real girlfriend of Trayvon Martin and legitimate phone witness, Defendant Eugene, and their coaching of false testimony and support for the substitution of lies of an imposter and fake witness, Defendant Jeantel, that she told to prosecutors.

### **Background as of February 2012**

21. In February 2012, Zimmerman was 28 years old, married, and living at the Retreat at Twin Lakes townhome complex in Sanford, Florida. He was working as a forensic fraud underwriter for Digital Risk and attending Seminole Community College. Zimmerman was studying Political Science/Criminal Justice on a path to becoming an attorney. In his spare time, Zimmerman was a social activist and minority advocate. He had led a community-wide effort to seek justice for Sherman Ware, a homeless black man who was attacked by the son of a white police officer. Zimmerman was also acting as a mentor in a program for African American teens whose parents were in prison. After a rash of robberies and home invasions at the Retreat at Twin Lakes townhome community where he lived, Zimmerman joined the neighborhood watch program.

22. In February 2012, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was living with Defendant Fulton in Miami. Trayvon was often getting into fights at Michael Krop High School and was suspended 3 times. In text messages to a friend, Trayvon lamented only breaking the nose of a student whom he had fought because "he snitched on me" and insisted he would fight the student again because "he ain't bleed enough for me". An expulsion hearing was set for Trayvon after he tried to hit a bus driver. Trayvon's text messages indicated he was dealing handguns to his underage friends, and that he was a heavy marijuana user. During this time, Trayvon self-identified as a gangster and used a twitter handle that indicated affiliation with a Miami street gang. Text messages between Trayvon and his two closest friends, Romario Carridice ("Mario") and Stephan Bramble ("Bramble") (as well as their social media posts) indicate they were engaged in similar dangerous activities.

23. In February 2012, 16-year-old Defendant Eugene was a sophomore at Miramar High School. In early February 2012, Defendant Eugene and Trayvon began a romantic relationship. They spoke on the phone for an average of 5 hours per day and exchanged about 50 text messages each day. Text messages indicate the relationship was loving, sexual, and often volatile. During her relationship with Trayvon, Defendant Eugene simultaneously continued her relationship with her boyfriend of seven months, Van Jefferson Watler, who was 18 years old.

24. In February 2012, Defendant Jeantel was an 18-year-old ninth grader at Miami Norland Senior High School. Defendant Jeantel was in the ESE (Exceptional Student Education) Program because she was reading on a 4th grade level and had failed two years of school. Defendant Jeantel often arrived late to school, having "led the school in tardies."

25. After Trayvon's his third suspension from school in mid-February 2012, rather than supervise him at home, Defendant Fulton "kicked him out" according to Trayvon's texts,

and Trayvon was sent by Defendant Fulton by Greyhound bus to stay with his father Defendant Tracy Martin in Sanford, Florida. Trayvon was picked up at the bus station by Defendant Tracy Martin's girlfriend, Brandy Green, and taken to her townhome at the Retreat at Twin Lakes on February 21, 2012.

### **Facts Pertaining To February 26, 2012**

26. Having slept little the night before due to marijuana use and partying with his cousin, Trayvon spent much of the day speaking on the phone and texting with Defendant Eugene who was in Miami. Trayvon was speaking with Defendant Eugene both before and after he exited a 7-11 store at approximately 6:30 PM in the evening of February 26. While driving to Target at around 7:09 PM, Zimmerman spotted Trayvon standing in the rain between two townhomes and making no attempt to get out of the rain. Zimmerman pulled over and called the non-emergency number of the Sanford police to report a suspicious person, as the neighborhood watch group members had been advised to do. Trayvon, while still on the phone with Defendant Eugene, then approached and circled Zimmerman's parked car while Zimmerman was still speaking to the dispatcher. Zimmerman described Trayvon to the dispatcher as looking like he was "on drugs or something" (Martin was later found to have marijuana in his system above the legal limit to drive in most states). Then, while still on the phone with Defendant Eugene, Trayvon departed the area of Zimmerman's car, which Zimmerman also reported to the dispatcher. The dispatcher repeatedly asked Zimmerman which way the person had gone, prompting Zimmerman to get out of his car to try to assist the dispatcher.

27. Zimmerman answered "okay" in agreement after being asked by the dispatcher not to follow Trayvon. Then, and after failing to find a street address to give the dispatcher where a police officer could meet him, Zimmerman asked the dispatcher to tell the officer to

meet him back at his parked car. Zimmerman then walked toward his parked car, and almost there, Trayvon appeared and approached Zimmerman from behind, and called out, "What's your problem?". As Zimmerman answered, "I don't have a problem," Trayvon immediately sucker-punched Zimmerman in the nose, breaking it, and straddled him as he fell to the ground. Trayvon then began slamming Zimmerman's head onto the concrete sidewalk and tried to smother Zimmerman as he yelled for help at least 14 times according to 911 audio recordings. Trayvon was also raining down blows on Zimmerman "MMA Style" according to eyewitness Jonathan Good ("Good") who, hearing the disturbance, came out of his neighboring townhome and shouted at Trayvon to stop the assault or he would call the police. Trayvon did not stop the assault on Zimmerman, so Good retreated back into his townhome to call police. Zimmerman was disoriented and choking on blood from his broken nose. Fearing he would go unconscious from the continued bashing of his head onto the concrete sidewalk, he reached for his legal firearm and discharged a single shot to stop the assault. As he lay gravely injured, Trayvon requested of Zimmerman, "tell Mama 'Licia I'm sorry", before passing away.

28. Defendant Eugene had been speaking on the phone with Trayvon almost the entire time: 1) while Trayvon was standing out in the rain and spotted Zimmerman's car stopping, 2) while Trayvon was circling Zimmerman's car and observing Zimmerman on the phone, 3) as Trayvon approached Zimmerman when he was on foot returning to his car, and 4) just before and at least at the beginning of the beating of Zimmerman by Trayvon. Defendant Eugene knew of Trayvon's thoughts, comments, plans, and actions as regards Zimmerman in advance of Trayvon's approaching Zimmerman, both when Zimmerman was in his car and on foot. After her last call with Trayvon disconnected, Defendant Eugene repeatedly called Trayvon and her best friend Felicia Cineas ("Felicia") over the next two hours, even tweeting about her

grave concerns while on the phone with Felicia. This behavior indicated Defendant Eugene knew much more than what she would tell Defendant Crump in a recorded phone call and what she wrote in a letter she gave to Defendant Fulton a few weeks later.

### **Facts Pertaining To February 27-March 16, 2012**

29. On information and belief, Defendants Tracy Martin, Fulton, and Crump orchestrated a pressure campaign to force Defendant Eugene to make an on the record statement that implicated Zimmerman as the aggressor in the altercation with Trayvon in order to have Zimmerman arrested and charged with murder. On information and belief, Defendant Tracy Martin recruited Trayvon's friends to assist in the pressure campaign against Defendant Eugene, including Trayvon's closest friends Mario and Bramble, and Defendant Eugene's best friend Felicia, who was also the sister of Francine Serve, a woman who had worked at Defendant Fulton's home. At the direction of Defendants Tracy, Fulton, and Crump, Mario and Bramble bombarded Defendant Eugene with phone calls and text messages at all hours for the first few weeks of March 2012, including while she was at school. Felicia joined in the pressure campaign, sometimes on 3-way calls with Mario. Defendant Eugene refused their intense pressure to make an on the record statement incriminating Zimmerman, even tweeting about the stressful calls, and turning off her phone at times to avoid them.

30. On March 12, Sanford Florida Police Chief Bill Lee announced the results of their investigation into the February 26 shooting at a public press conference. Lee explained that the Sanford police investigation had included extensive interviews with Zimmerman, with eye-witness Johnathan Good, numerous Retreat at Twin Lakes residents, reviews of 911 calls, examination of the physical evidence of Zimmerman's broken nose and head lacerations and Trayvon's bruised knuckles, and the location of the altercation. Lee declared the investigation

concluded the shooting was an act of self-defense and there were no grounds to arrest Zimmerman. It was not a stand your ground case.

31. On March 13, dissatisfied with the police investigation of the evidence exonerating Zimmerman, on information and belief, Defendant Crump requested the NAACP to write a letter to the DOJ requesting an investigation into the shooting, which resulted in the dispatch of the Community Relations Service ("CRS") of the DOJ to Sanford, Florida. Under the guise of a legitimate investigation, the CRS instead helped to organize public protests to demand Zimmerman's arrest, even though there were no grounds for an arrest and no probable cause to arrest or convict Zimmerman in a court of law, all in violation of DOJ ethics and guidelines and the law, as well as Zimmerman's constitutional rights.

32. During this time and despite all evidence to the contrary, in order to defame Zimmerman, incite the public against him, and influence phone witness Defendant Eugene, Defendant Crump repeatedly disseminated into the media a knowingly false narrative that during the events of February 26, that Trayvon: 1) was only buying candy for his little brother, 2) was just trying to get home, when he was 3) was stalked by Zimmerman because of his skin color and then 4) was shot in cold blood by Zimmerman after yelling repeatedly for help. To help convince the public of his false narrative, Defendant Crump disseminated a photo of Trayvon to the media of when Trayvon was only about 10 years old and 5 feet tall, rather than providing recent photos of the 17-year-old Trayvon who stood over six feet tall. Defendant Crump repeated his false narrative often and, in doing so, successfully coerced the media, politicians, celebrities, and even fair-minded people into demanding the arrest of Zimmerman with no evidence, and even though he'd already been exonerated by the police investigation.

33. Defendant Crump invited Reverend Al Sharpton ("Sharpton") to assist in his defamation and incitement efforts against Zimmerman. At a Florida rally with Sharpton, Defendant Crump bragged to the crowd, "we called up to New York City and we called for a man with a track record!" referring to Sharpton whom he knew was the spokesman for and promoter of the Tawana Brawley race hoax in 1987, had incited race-based violence that led to the Crown Heights riots in 1991, and had incited anti-Semitic hatred that fueled the Freddie's Fashion Mart massacre in 1995 that left eight people dead. With Sharpton's help, Defendant Crump's defamation and incitement efforts resulted in massive public protests demanding Zimmerman's arrest, death threats against Zimmerman, and was so effective that it even inspired otherwise responsible celebrities like Rosanne Barr and Spike Lee to tweet the home address of Zimmerman's parents and invite mob action against Zimmerman's family who were forced into hiding.

#### **Facts Pertaining To March 17 and 18, 2012**

34. On both March 17 and March 18, in between coordinated pressure calls from Mario and Bramble, as well as Felicia, Defendant Tracy Martin telephoned Defendant Eugene and spoke with her for about 2 minutes each time. In the evening of March 18, Defendant Eugene was finally coerced under pressure into agreeing to make an on the record statement incriminating Zimmerman. Defendant Eugene tweeted about the extreme duress she was under, "Can't believe this is happening to me. Crying." She was instructed to meet with Defendants Fulton and Crump the next day after school at Defendant Fulton's home.

#### **Facts Pertaining To March 19, 2012**

35. Defendant Fulton texted Defendant Eugene throughout the morning, beginning at 5:13 AM. Francine Serve ("Francine"), then 22, was the older sister of Felicia Cineas and had

worked in the home of Defendant Fulton as a caregiver for her brother. On information and belief, Defendant Fulton instructed Francine to pick up Defendant Eugene after school and deliver her to Defendant Fulton's home. According to Defendant Fulton's April 2, 2012 statement to police, after school that day, Francine drove Defendant Eugene to Defendant Fulton's house where she dropped Defendant Eugene off. Defendant Fulton explained to police that Defendant Eugene spoke with her at length (Defendant Crump later indicated he also had met with Defendant Eugene at this time). At the afternoon meeting with Defendant Eugene, Defendants Fulton and Crump requested of Defendant Eugene that she return later that evening to appear in an on-camera TV interview with ABC's Matt Gutman to make a statement incriminating Zimmerman. Defendant Fulton stated later in her 2013 deposition that Defendant Eugene had also delivered a handwritten letter to her that afternoon, signed "Diamond Eugene", that described what Defendant Eugene had heard over the phone when speaking with Trayvon before his death. Defendant Tracy Martin wrote in his 2017 book co-authored by himself and Defendant Fulton, *Rest in Power*, that Defendant Eugene entered Defendant Fulton's house and had given the letter to Defendant Fulton who read it out loud and that Defendant Fulton started crying. Also, according to Defendant Fulton's April 2, 2012 statement to police, Defendant Fulton then drove Defendant Eugene back to her house where Defendant Fulton said she spoke with Defendant Eugene's mother, whom Defendant Fulton told police had requested that Defendant Eugene's identity be kept private.

36. That evening of March 19, Defendant Eugene declined Defendants Fulton and Crump's request to return to Defendant Fulton's house for an on-camera ABC-TV interview. Instead, she allowed for a recorded over the phone interview with Defendant Crump. In that 20-minute recorded phone interview, Defendant Crump openly coached and led Defendant Eugene

into repeating his false narrative of events he had been pushing in the media for several weeks. In that recorded call, Defendant Eugene repeated almost word for word Defendant Crump's false narrative that Trayvon was just trying to get home with candy for his little brother when attacked by Zimmerman based on skin color, even though she knew this not to be true. Defendant Eugene also answered many of Defendant Crump's questions in the affirmative, even though she knew them not to be true. Defendant Eugene also appeared to make up some lies on her own to implicate Zimmerman that were not led by Defendant Crump. Defendant Eugene also falsely claimed that she did not attend Trayvon's funeral because she had to go to the hospital that day (six days after Trayvon's death), where according to Defendant Eugene she was diagnosed with "shock" when her doctor told her she was the last person to speak with Trayvon. In fact, Defendant Eugene was with her boyfriend, Van Jefferson Watler, during that time.

### **Facts Pertaining To March 20, 2012**

37. Defendant Crump held a press conference and falsely claimed that Defendant Tracy Martin had only discovered the existence of Trayvon's girlfriend on the evening of March 18, 2012 when Defendant Tracy Martin checked his phone records. Defendant Crump stated that Defendant Eugene and Trayvon "were dating" and that it was "puppy love". Though Defendant Crump had addressed Defendant Eugene in the recorded call by her name "Diamond," Defendant Crump refused to identify Defendant Eugene by name in the press conference because "she is a minor child". Defendant Crump played for the press excerpts from his recorded call with Defendant Eugene in which she implicated Zimmerman with Defendant Crump's false media narrative. Defendant Crump declared to the press, "we have all the evidence now!" and "arrest George Zimmerman for the murder of Trayvon Martin!". Defendant Crump concluded by saying he would not turn over Defendant Eugene's interview recording to Sanford police investigators,

but instead would give it to the FBI, which was under the jurisdiction of the DOJ that was organizing protests for Zimmerman's arrest at the same time.

### **Facts Pertaining To March 21, 2012**

38. Defendant Crump appeared on the Today Show with Defendants Fulton and Tracy Martin. Defendant Crump told Matt Lauer that Trayvon's girlfriend was "a 16-year-old teenager". Defendant Crump also appeared on Court TV. When asked how he discovered Trayvon's girlfriend out of the blue after the police had already investigated, Defendant Crump inadvertently admitted the existence of the weeks long coordinated pressure campaign against Defendant Eugene when he stated on air, "This interview happened Jane, because we pushed her making a statement."

### **Facts Pertaining To March 28, 2012**

39. Defendant Eugene did a 49-minute phone interview with ABC's Matt Gutman, of which only about one minute was broadcast that evening on ABC News with Diane Sawyer and the next night on Nightline. In the segments broadcast, Defendant Eugene repeated several knowingly false statements she had made in the recorded March 19 phone call with Defendant Crump that falsely incriminated Zimmerman.

### **Facts Pertaining To March 29-31, 2012**

40. On information and belief, over this time period of March 29-31, Defendant Eugene helped recruit and coach Defendant Jeantel, her half-sister, to pretend to be her in a planned upcoming interview with Florida state prosecutors. On information and belief, Defendant Crump was party with Defendant Eugene to the planning of the witness switch and assisted in the preparation of Defendant Jeantel to take Defendant Eugene's place, and both

Defendants Eugene and Crump suborned perjury to cause Defendant Jeantel to incriminate Zimmerman with Defendant Crump's false narrative.

41. On March 31, 2012 Defendant Fulton texted Defendant Eugene at 8:17 AM but she did not respond. Instead, Defendant Eugene phoned Defendant Crump at 11:18 AM and they spoke for 3 minutes and 20 seconds. On information and belief, in this phone call Defendants Eugene and Crump finalized the plans for Defendant Jeantel to pretend to be Defendant Eugene to further the conspiracy to incriminate Zimmerman and bring about his arrest, trial, and conviction for murder and sentencing to prison for life based on the pre-planned false testimony of Defendant Jeantel.

### **Facts Pertaining To April 2, 2012**

42. Prosecutors and police arrived at Defendant Fulton's home at around 3:20 PM. Defendants Fulton and Tracy Martin were interviewed. This is when Defendant Fulton made the statements to police about her interactions with Defendant Eugene on March 19, 2012, including Defendant Fulton's statement that Defendant Eugene had been dropped off at her house by Francine Serve, and that Defendant Fulton had driven Defendant Eugene back to her home later in the afternoon of March 19, 2012 and spoken to her mother.

43. After Defendant Fulton's interview with police was over, Defendant Fulton directed the prosecutors and police to Defendant Eugene's home at 2648 Flamingo Drive in Miramar to pick her up for an interview with prosecutors. Defendant Fulton knew the address from having driven her home on March 19, 2012 and prosecutors did not. Defendant de la Rionda confirmed this later in a news interview when he stated about Trayvon's girlfriend, "the only means of communication we had with her was Sybrina Fulton".

44. Arriving at Defendant Eugene's home at 2648 Flamingo Drive in Miramar, where she lived with her mother Eliana Eugene, sister Virginia Eugena, and grandmother Sainvila Eugene, prosecutors and police were told Defendant Eugene was not at home, but rather she was visiting at the home of Defendant Fulton's worker, Francine Serve, at SW 3958 52nd Avenue, Apt 2. Prosecutors, police and Defendant Fulton left Defendant Eugene's house and arrived at SW 3958 52nd Avenue, Apt 2 at "approximately 6:30 PM" to pick up Defendant Eugene to be interviewed. Defendant Fulton later stated in her 2013 deposition, "I knocked on the door and axed for Diamond." However, rather than Defendant Eugene coming to the door, Defendant Jeantel appeared and claimed that she was "Diamond Eugene". Defendant Eugene could in no way be mistaken for Defendant Jeantel, who was 2 years older, 5 inches taller, and about 120 pounds heavier than Defendant Eugene. Defendant Fulton was alarmed and immediately called Defendant Eugene, who tweeted at about that same time at 6:27 PM "Trayvon Martin Mom just called me" and at 6:32 PM "She thought I was Trayvon Girlfriend, Asking Me Hella Questions. Confused".

45. On information and belief, Defendant Fulton did not report that Defendant Jeantel was an imposter or the switch of witnesses to prosecutors or police. On information and belief, Defendant Fulton did not blow the whistle nor reveal what she knew, that Defendant Jeantel was not Defendant Eugene, that Defendant Jeantel was not Trayvon's girlfriend, that Defendant Jeantel was not the girl she had met with in her home on March 19, had spoken with 7 times, had texted with some 30 times, had driven back to her home at 2648 Flamingo Drive on March 19, and not the girl whose mother she had spoken with who asked for her identity to be kept private.

46. Defendant Jeantel was then driven to Defendant Fulton's house where Defendant de la Rionda interviewed Defendant Jeantel in a sworn statement. Prosecutors violated all legal

protocols by allowing the victim's mother, Defendant Fulton, to sit next to Defendant Jeantel during the interview. In the interview, Defendant Jeantel lied repeatedly in order to incriminate Zimmerman. Defendant Jeantel falsely claimed to be Trayvon's girlfriend, falsely claimed that her nickname was "Diamond", and falsely claimed that she was on the phone with Trayvon in the days leading up to and much of the day and up to the minute of his death. Defendant Jeantel made numerous false statements about what she claimed to have heard while speaking with Trayvon with the goal of incriminating Zimmerman for the purpose of having him falsely arrested, tried, and convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Defendant de la Rionda ignored the repeated false statements by Defendant Jeantel that he both knew and should have known to be false, including those which contradicted Defendant Eugene's phone records he had already obtained, and including Defendant Jeantel's statement that she was 18, even though Defendant de la Rionda knew from Defendant Crump's public statements that Defendant Eugene was 16 and "a minor child". Almost every time Defendant Jeantel made a statement he knew to be false, Defendant de la Rionda asked the question again and again in different ways until Defendant Jeantel's answer fit his narrative. By the end of the interview, Defendant Jeantel was emotionally exhausted and feeling guilty from her lying and told Defendant de la Rionda six times, almost shouting "I feel guilty" and "real guilty". When asked why she felt "real guilty", Defendant Jeantel then stated twice, shouting the second time "I ain't know about it!" Defendant de la Rionda ignored Defendant Jeantel's confession of being a false witness, all the more obvious since he knew Defendant Jeantel had lied repeatedly in the interview, and rather than arrest Defendant Jeantel for lying to prosecutors under oath, Defendant de la Rionda ended the interview.

#### **Facts Pertaining to April 12, 2012**

47. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, and Corey knowingly co-authored and executed a fraudulent affidavit of probable cause against Zimmerman, based largely on Defendant Jeantel's interview statements, and despite knowing that Defendant Jeantel was an imposter and fake witness, and that her statements incriminating Zimmerman were false. Prosecutors used Defendant Jeantel's false interview statements to mischaracterize Zimmerman's interactions with the dispatcher to accuse him of "profiling", and used several of Defendant Jeantel's knowingly false statements of what she claimed to have heard over the phone, even though they were contradicted by all eyewitness and physical evidence. Another fraudulent feature of the affidavit read as follows: "Trayvon's mother has reviewed the 911 calls and identified the voice crying for help as Trayvon Martin's voice." In order to further their conspiracy to arrest and prosecute Zimmerman for second degree murder, Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, and Corey accepted the obviously conflicted victim's mother's word as fact, and discounted the simple written testament provided to police by dispassionate eyewitness Johnathan Good, "guy getting hit on ground was wearing red calling out help." Prosecutors also discounted Zimmerman's claim moments after the shooting to police that he had been yelling for help, as well as Defendant Tracy Martin's admission to police that the voice heard on the 911 calls screaming for help was not his son's, an admission heard by at least two Sanford police officers, all in order to falsely arrest and charge Zimmerman.

#### **Facts Pertaining To February 5, 2013**

48. On February 5, 2013, Defendant Crump submitted a 29-page affidavit to the circuit court that detailed his interactions with "Witness # 8" to avoid being deposed by Zimmerman's attorneys. Defendant Crump went to extraordinary lengths in this document to falsify, obscure, misdirect, and lie about his pressure campaign against Defendant Eugene and

his knowledge that 16-year-old Brittany Diamond Eugene (and not 18-year old Rachel Jeantel) was the actual phone witness and girlfriend of Trayvon Martin whom he had met and later interviewed over the phone on March 19, 2012, whose mother he had spoken with, whom he told the media on March 19 was a "minor child", whom he told Matt Lauer on March 21 "she's a 16 year old teenager", and with whom he spoke to again on the phone on March 31, 2012. On information and belief, Defendant Crump also obscured the fact that he knew about the witness switch, and had worked with Defendant Eugene to suborn perjury in helping to prepare the imposter and fake witness, Defendant Jeantel, for her interview with prosecutors on April 2, 2012 for the purposes of causing the arrest, prosecution and sentencing to life in prison of Zimmerman.

#### **Facts Pertaining To March 13, 2013 and April 24, 2013 - Rachel Jeantel Depositions**

49. In her two sworn depositions of March 13 and April 24, 2013 with Zimmerman's defense attorneys, one on each of these two dates, Defendant Jeantel lied repeatedly about having a relationship with Trayvon, about being on the phone with Trayvon in the days and minutes up to his death, and lied about everything she claimed to have heard over the phone in the hours and minutes prior to Trayvon's death. Defendant Jeantel also lied about her identity, falsely claiming her nickname to be "Diamond Eugene". She also lied about signing the letter as "Diamond Eugene" which was given by Defendant Eugene to Defendant Fulton.

#### **Facts Pertaining to March 14, 2013 - Tracy Martin Deposition**

50. On this date, Defendant Tracy Martin lied repeatedly in his sworn deposition with Zimmerman's defense attorneys in order to mislead Zimmerman's defense team regarding his interactions on the phone with Defendant Eugene on March 17 and March 18, 2012 and his meeting in person with Defendant Eugene on March 19, 2012. Defendant Tracy Martin also lied

about having no knowledge of the letter Defendant Eugene delivered to Sybrina on March 19, 2012, which he admitted four years later in his book was read out loud to him, in order to further the conspiracy of the witness switch from the legitimate phone witness Defendant Eugene to the imposter and fake witness Defendant Jeantel for the purpose of causing an arrest and prosecution of Zimmerman for murder and causing him to be sentenced to prison for life.

#### **Facts Pertaining to March 15, 2013 - Sybrina Fulton Deposition**

51. In Defendant Fulton's sworn deposition with Zimmerman's defense attorneys on March 15, 2013, Defendant Fulton lied repeatedly about the circumstances, events, and persons in question to cover up the identity of phone witness Defendant Eugene, and her knowledge that Defendant Jeantel was not Defendant Eugene. Defendant Fulton lied repeatedly and often to cover up her two meetings in person with Defendant Eugene, about her speaking with her Defendant Eugene's mother Eliana Eugene, and regarding her knowledge of facts and events surrounding her many interactions with Defendant Eugene both in person and on the phone. Defendant Fulton also lied repeatedly about the circumstances of receiving the handwritten letter from Defendant Eugene and signed "Diamond Eugene", about the content of the letter, and lied about why she hid the critical evidence from police until forced to produce it at her deposition just before the trial. On information and belief, Defendant Fulton hid this evidence in order to prevent the defense from an opportunity to run handwriting analysis that would have revealed that Defendant Jeantel did not sign the name "Diamond Eugene", and in order to keep the conspiracy against Zimmerman from unraveling.

#### **Facts Pertaining April 2012 - July 2013**

52. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, and Corey engaged in a 14-month campaign of obstruction to prevent Zimmerman's defense from discovering the substitution of the real phone

witness, Brittany Diamond Eugene, for the imposter and fake witness, Rachel Jeantel, by withholding evidence from Zimmerman's defense team in order to minimize the time they would have to discover what they knew, that Defendant Jeantel was an imposter and a fake witness. The obstruction campaign by Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, and Corey caused Zimmerman's defense team to spend 2/3 of their time in court demanding discovery and sanctions against the prosecution, all in an effort to prevent Zimmerman's defense from discovering that Defendant Jeantel was an imposter. The obstruction campaign by Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, and Corey included refusing to turn over alleged hospital records until being forced to admit they didn't exist, providing Trayvon's 750-page Cellebrite cell phone extraction report to Zimmerman's defense in an unreadable binary file form rather than a print out, and by denying Zimmerman's defense attorneys access to Defendant Jeantel by falsely claiming that Defendant Jeantel was only 16 (Defendant Eugene's age) before finally admitting Defendant Jeantel was 19 when she was finally allowed to be deposed just weeks before Zimmerman's trial.

### **Facts Pertaining to July 2013**

53. During the trial of Zimmerman, Defendant Jeantel appeared in court and testified for two days. She lied repeatedly on the witness stand by pretending to be "Diamond Eugene" and lied about all events and circumstances regarding Trayvon, her relationship with Trayvon, and the circumstances leading up to his death by falsely claiming she was a phone witness to them, when she was not, in order to incriminate Zimmerman for murder and send him to prison for life as part of a conspiracy with the others named in this action. Defendant Jeantel also falsely claimed she had given the letter to Defendant Fulton and that she had signed the letter given to Defendant Fulton as "Diamond Eugene", even though she did neither.

54. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE prepared and planned the arrest, trial and prosecution of George Zimmerman all the while obscuring what they knew and/or should have known, that Defendant Jeantel was a fake witness and an imposter, and that she was not the girlfriend of Trayvon named Diamond Eugene who was on the phone with Trayvon in the days before and day of the shooting. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE had in their possession for more than one year Trayvon's 750-page Cellebrite cell phone records extraction report which obviously contained at least four photos images of Defendant Eugene that she had texted Trayvon that in no way resembled Defendant Jeantel. There were also 2 photos of Defendant Eugene's cousin "JJ" (Alexis Jacquet) in the phone records that should have been identified. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE had read and knew of numerous highly sexual and explicit texts between Defendant Eugene and Trayvon, and they knew Defendant Jeantel had changed her original story from when Defendant de la Rionda asked Defendant Jeantel on April 2, "were you his girlfriend?", and Defendant Jeantel replied "we were getting there" to "no" in her later depositions. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also had the address of 2648 Flamingo Drive in Miramar where Defendant Fulton had directed them on April 2, 2012 and knew or should have known that Defendant Eugene lived there with her mother Eliana Eugene, and could have and likely did know this was the same name as on the letter given to Defendant Fulton signed "Diamond Eugene". Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also had in their possession from April 15, 2013 before the trial the letter signed "Diamond Eugene" that Defendant Fulton finally produced and should have run a handwriting analysis on the signature and would have easily determine it was not signed by Defendant Jeantel who could barely write. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also had the 20 minute phone recording of Defendant Crump and Defendant Eugene in their

possession for over a year, as did the FBI, and could have and should have easily determined that the voice on the phone with Defendant Crump did not resemble the voice, inflections, range, content, or language terminology used by Defendant Jeantel in her interview with prosecutors. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also knew Defendant Jeantel was 18 at the time and was not "a 16-year-old teenager" as Defendant Crump had identified her publicly. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also had Defendant Eugene's phone records from Simple Mobile from the period Feb 26-April 2, 2012 and with minimal research into the phone numbers, would have and should have determined that it was impossible that Defendant Jeantel was Defendant Eugene. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also had Trayvon's cell phone records for over a year and identifying and cross referencing those numbers would have also revealed it was impossible that Defendant Jeantel was Defendant Eugene. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also had all of Trayvon's written text messages between Trayvon and Defendant Eugene that contradicted again and again Defendant Jeantel's claim to have been on the phone with Trayvon and her claim to be Defendant Eugene. Finally, Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE knew that Defendant Jeantel had emphatically confessed to Defendant de la Rionda that she was lying at the end of first interview on April 2, 2012, but used her false statements in Zimmerman's arrest warrant anyway. Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE also knew that Defendant Crump's story of the sudden discovery of Defendant Eugene on March 18 by Defendant Tracy Martin in his phone records was contradicted by the phone records in their possession showing that in fact Defendant Tracy Martin had called Defendant Eugene on both March 17 and 18, and they also knew that Defendant Crump had told Court TV that Defendant Eugene came forward only because of a pressure campaign, according to Defendant Crump, "This interview happened Jane because we

pushed her making a statement." Defendants de la Rionda, Guy, Corey and FDLE knew that Defendant Crump's statement to Court TV was incompatible with Defendant Crump's other statements.

### **Facts Pertaining to Defamation**

55. On October 15, 2019, Defendant Crump released a book, published by Defendant HarperCollins, with a reckless, racially charged, inflammatory and defamatory title, *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People.*<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 1. Given Defendant Crump's widely known knowledge of, participation in and association with Plaintiff Zimmerman and the Trayvon Martin trial, the title of the book is reasonably understood to refer to Plaintiff Zimmerman. This creates the false implication that Plaintiff Zimmerman participated and participates in the "genocide of colored people."

56. Defendant Crump publicized and personally promoted this book in both Florida and New York, among other locations around the nation.<sup>3</sup>

57. The book itself also contains numerous false, malicious, and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff Zimmerman. In order to encourage sales of a book with a title stating that murder of African Americans is legal, early in the book in Chapter 3, Defendant Crump states regarding Plaintiff Zimmerman: "Testimony at the trial revealed that law enforcement ordered Zimmerman not to pursue the teen and to stand down until police arrived. Zimmerman continued to pursue Trayvon." This is a patently false statement of facts that Defendant Crump knows are false. Defendant

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062697905/open-season>

<sup>3</sup> <https://booksandbooks.com/event/benjamin-crump>  
<https://www.strandbooks.com/event/ben-crump-open-season>

Crump was the attorney for the Martin family, and was party to all of the case evidence from just two days after the incident. Defendant Crump had early and continued access to the 911 calls and all case evidence and facts, having submitted trial briefs and attended the trial, so much so that Defendant Crump was the "go to" media expert on the Zimmerman trial both before, during, and for years after the 2013 trial. Defendant HarperCollins also had access to the 911 calls and all the evidence in the case (public records), and with knowledge of the false facts in the book or insufficient vetting and a reckless disregard for the truth, published Defendant Crump's numerous false, malicious, and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff Zimmerman. Defendant HarperCollins publishing of these statements was done with actual malice in order to sell books and justify its absurd, inflammatory, racially charged book title: *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*, that suggested mass murder of African Americans had been legalized and that Plaintiff Zimmerman was at the forefront of this genocide. So reckless was Defendant HarperCollins desire to sell books, it even used the racist term "Colored People" to refer to African Americans in its book title, in order to stoke public anger and fears of "legalized genocide" of "colored people." The official book description reads as follows:

***Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People***  
***Genocide—the intent to destroy in whole or in part, a group of people.***  
*In Open Season, award-winning attorney Ben Crump exposes a heinous truth: Whether with a bullet or a lengthy prison sentence, America is killing black people and justifying it legally. While some deaths make headlines, most are personal tragedies suffered within families and communities. Worse, these killings are done one person at a time, so as not to raise alarm. While it is much more difficult to justify killing many people at once, in dramatic fashion, the result is the same—genocide.*

*Taking on such high-profile cases as Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and a host of others, Crump witnessed the disparities within the American legal system firsthand and learned it is dangerous to be a black man in America—and that the justice system indeed only protects wealthy white men. In this enlightening and enthralling work, he shows that there is a persistent, prevailing, and destructive mindset regarding colored people that is rooted in our history as a slaveowning nation. This biased attitude has given rise to mass*

*incarceration, voter disenfranchisement, unequal educational opportunities, disparate health care practices, job and housing discrimination, police brutality, and an unequal justice system. And all mask the silent and ongoing systematic killing of people of color.*

*Open Season is more than Crump's incredible mission to preserve justice, it is a call to action for Americans to begin living up to the promise to protect the rights of its citizens equally and without question*

58. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins were put on notice that the statements contained in Defendant Crump's book were defamatory and chose not to retract the false statements contained therein. Exhibit 2.

59. The statement regarding "Law enforcement" giving orders to Zimmerman is false. "Law enforcement" (meaning a police officer) did not order Zimmerman to do anything. The non-emergency dispatcher Zimmerman whom was speaking with was not "law enforcement". Defendant Crump's statement falsely implies Zimmerman disregarded instructions of a police officer, a serious charge, implying that Zimmerman did something in defiance of the police that led to the death of Trayvon Martin.

60. The statement that Zimmerman was ordered by law enforcement "not to pursue the teen" is totally false. According to the public 911 calls with which Defendant Crump is familiar, after the non-emergency dispatcher repeatedly requested help from Zimmerman in determining where the individual who had circled his car had gone, Zimmerman left his car only to assist the dispatcher. As Defendant Crump knows, when the dispatcher asked Zimmerman if he was following him and Zimmerman said "yeah" that the dispatcher stated in response "We don't need you to do that" and Zimmerman said, "okay". Defendant Crump also knows that Zimmerman then asked the dispatcher to have an officer meet him at his vehicle. Defendant Crump also knows from court testimony that the location of the altercation was near Zimmerman's car, and that as Zimmerman was approaching his vehicle was when he was

attacked by Trayvon Martin, as all the evidence proved in the court where Zimmerman was acquitted in 2013.

61. Based on the court testimony and 911 calls, Defendant Crump knows that no police officer nor even the non-emergency dispatcher ordered Zimmerman "to stand down until police arrived". This statement defames Plaintiff Zimmerman and leads the public to believe that he defied police officers and acted against instructions of law enforcement to pursue Trayvon when in fact all evidence presented at trial indicated that Zimmerman told the non-emergency dispatcher he was walking back to his car to meet the officer, and was then approached and attacked by Trayvon Martin, as the location of the incident near Zimmerman's car indicated.

62. The 911 recording and all testimony and evidence at trial proves Defendant Crump's statements about Zimmerman to be knowingly false and yet another attempt by Defendant Crump to defame and incriminate my client for a charge that he was acquitted of, in order to further Defendant Crump's financial and other interests.

63. Defendant Crump was at Plaintiff Zimmerman's trial, so he had firsthand knowledge that these statements were false. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins were put on notice that the statements are false and defamatory and refused to comply with demands to correct them. Exhibit 2.

### **Facts Pertaining to Plaintiff Zimmerman's Injuries**

64. Defendants (except HarperCollins), each and every one of them, working together in concert, caused Zimmerman to be unjustly arrested, charged, and prosecuted for second degree murder by the State of Florida and also caused Zimmerman to be the subject of a 2-year civil rights investigation by the Department of Justice. These caused Zimmerman to suffer great mental anguish, resulting in Zimmerman requiring professional treatment by psychologists for

anxiety, depression, insomnia, and weight gain. Zimmerman was formally diagnosed with depression as well as PTSD and PTSS which he suffers from and remains in treatment for to this day.

65. Because of the arrest, charges, prosecution and federal investigation, Zimmerman lives in constant fear of physical harm due to regular death threats, which often are expressed in rap music as well as online social media commentary. In 2015, a man named Matthew Apperson attempted to murder Zimmerman by shooting a bullet at him that missed his head by inches. Apperson was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

66. Plaintiff Zimmerman was kicked out of college and had to abandon career plans to become an attorney.

67. Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered nearly a complete loss of income as he cannot find work because of his "infamy" and legitimate fears by employers of violence and boycotts on their company. Because of the arrest, charges, prosecution and federal investigation, Zimmerman is unable to live a normal life. Zimmerman cannot circulate as a normal person in public. Zimmerman is unable to date; he was kicked off of several dating websites.

68. Plaintiff Zimmerman lives in constant fear of attack. He often receives constant death threats when he appears in public.

69. Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered severe loss of reputation, goodwill, and past, present, and future loss of income, earning, and other financial damage.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
*Malicious Prosecution*

***Defendants De La Rionda, Guy, Corey, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and State of Florida***

70. Plaintiff Zimmerman repeats and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth in full herein.

71. A criminal prosecution was commenced against Plaintiff Zimmerman, which was instigated by Defendants De La Rionda, Guy, Corey, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and State of Florida (the “Prosecution Defendants”) acting in concert as joint tortfeasors, jointly and severally.

72. This criminal prosecution ended in favor of Plaintiff Zimmerman.

73. This criminal prosecution was knowingly instituted by the Prosecution Defendants without probable cause and with malice, as they knowingly put on a false witness in order to try to obtain a conviction against Plaintiff Zimmerman, which they were still unable to do.

74. As a result of this malicious prosecution action, Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered severe loss of reputation, goodwill, and past, present, and future loss of income, earning, and other financial damage, as set forth above and herein.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
*Abuse of Process*

***Defendants De La Rionda, Guy, Corey, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and State of Florida***

75. Plaintiff Zimmerman repeats and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth in full herein.

76. A criminal prosecution was commenced against Plaintiff Zimmerman, which was instigated by the Prosecution Defendants.

77. The criminal prosecution was commenced by the Prosecution Defendants for an immediate purpose other than that for which it was created. The criminal prosecution was commenced in order to create racial controversy to serve a political agenda by trying to pin the death of Trayvon Martin on Zimmerman whom the Prosecution Defendants depicted as a

Caucasian man, despite the fact that Plaintiff Zimmerman is Hispanic and half Peruvian, and a minority advocate and mentor to minority children.

78. As a result of this abuse of process, Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered severe loss of reputation, goodwill, and past, present, and future loss of income, earning, and other financial damage, as set forth above and herein.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
***Civil Conspiracy***

79. Plaintiff Zimmerman repeats and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth in full herein.

80. All of the Defendants (except HarperCollins), working together in concert, agreed to put on a false witness with a made-to-order false storyline to try to fraudulently create probable cause to arrest Plaintiff Zimmerman and to try to fraudulently obtain a conviction against Plaintiff Zimmerman.

81. Defendants committed multiple overt acts in furtherance of this conspiracy, as they did in fact put on a false witness against Plaintiff Zimmerman.

82. As a result of this civil conspiracy, Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered severe loss of reputation, goodwill, and past, present, and future loss of income, earning, and other financial damage, as set forth above and herein.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
***Defamation***  
***Defendants Crump and HarperCollins***

83. Plaintiff Zimmerman re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

84. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins published numerous false, misleading slanderous, defamatory statements to severely harm and damage Plaintiff Zimmerman in their

book, *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*.

85. These false, misleading and defamatory statements were published in the form of a book, eBook, and audiobook with heavy promotion by Defendants Crump and HarperCollins in Florida and the USA, and has been disseminated on the internet and republished elsewhere for persons in this circuit and the entire world to see and hear.

86. These false, misleading and defamatory statements were published with actual malice, as Defendant Crump knew or should have known in the case of Defendant HarperCollins, as set forth above, that they were false and misleading, and/or at a minimum acted with a reckless disregard for the truth. Defendant HarperCollins had reason to know that the statements were false or at a minimum failed to do sufficient vetting of the book while exhibiting a reckless disregard for the truth.

87. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins have been put on notice of the falsity of the statements contained in the book, but chose not to retract them. Exhibit 2.

88. Plaintiff Zimmerman has been severely harmed and damaged by these false and misleading defamatory statements because they subject him to hatred, distrust, ridicule, contempt, and disgrace.

89. These statements are *per se* defamatory because they falsely accuse Plaintiff Zimmerman of having committed a felonious crime.

90. As a result of this, Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered severe loss of reputation, goodwill, and past, present, and future loss of income, earning, and other financial damage, as set forth above and herein.

**FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
***Defamation Per Se***  
***Defendants Crump and HarperCollins***

91. Plaintiff Zimmerman re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

92. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins published numerous false, misleading slanderous, defamatory statements to severely harm and damage Plaintiff Zimmerman in their book, *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*.

93. These false, misleading and defamatory statements were published in the form of a book, eBook, and audiobook with heavy promotion by Defendants Crump and HarperCollins in Florida and the USA, and has been disseminated on the internet and republished elsewhere for persons in this circuit and the entire world to see and hear.

94. These false, misleading and defamatory statements were published with actual malice, as Defendant Crump knew that they were false and misleading, and/or at a minimum acted with a reckless disregard for the truth. Defendant HarperCollins also had reason to know that they were false and at a minimum failed to do sufficient vetting of the book while exhibiting a reckless disregard for the truth.

95. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins have been put on notice of the falsity of the statements contained in the book, but chose not to retract them. Exhibit 2.

96. Plaintiff Zimmerman has been severely harmed and damaged by these false and misleading slanderous statements because they subject him to hatred, distrust, ridicule, contempt, and disgrace.

97. These statements are *per se* defamatory because they falsely accuse Plaintiff Zimmerman of having committed a crime.

98. As a result of this, Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered severe loss of reputation, goodwill, and past, present, and future loss of income, earning, and other financial damage, as set forth above and herein.

**SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
***Defamation By Implication***  
***Defendants Crump and HarperCollins***

99. Plaintiff Zimmerman re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

100. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins published numerous false, misleading slanderous, defamatory statements to severely harm and damage Plaintiff Zimmerman in their book, *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*.

101. These false, misleading and defamatory statements were published in the form of a book, eBook, and audiobook with heavy promotion by Defendants Crump and HarperCollins in Florida and the USA, and has been disseminated on the internet and republished elsewhere for persons in this circuit and the entire world to see and hear.

102. These false, misleading and defamatory statements were published with actual malice, as Defendant Crump knew that they were false and misleading, and/or at a minimum acted with a reckless disregard for the truth. Defendant HarperCollins also had reason to know that they were false and/or at a minimum failed to do sufficient vetting of the book while exhibiting a reckless disregard for the truth.

103. Defendants Crump and HarperCollins have been put on notice of the falsity of the statements contained in the book, but chose not to retract them. Exhibit 2.

104. Plaintiff Zimmerman has been severely harmed and damaged by these false and misleading slanderous statements because they subject him to hatred, distrust, ridicule, contempt,

and disgrace.

105. These statements create the false implication that Plaintiff Zimmerman has participated in the “genocide of colored people.”

106. These statements create the false implication that Plaintiff Zimmerman ignored the orders of law enforcement in order to shoot and murder in cold blood Trayvon Martin.

107. As a result of this, Plaintiff Zimmerman has suffered severe loss of reputation, goodwill, and past, present, and future loss of income, earning, and other financial damage, as set forth above and herein.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff George Zimmerman prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- a. Awarding Plaintiff Zimmerman compensatory and actual including consequential and incidental damages in excess of \$ 100,000,000.00 million U.S. Dollars.
- b. Awarding Plaintiff Zimmerman attorney's fees and costs.
- c. Granting any further relief as the Court deems appropriate including preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, as well as leave to later amend to add a claim for punitive damages pursuant to Section 768.72 of the Florida Statutes.

Dated: December 4, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

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# EXHIBIT 1

LEGALIZED  
GENOCIDE  
OF COLORED  
PEOPLE

# OPEN SEASON

BEN  
CRUMP



# **OPEN SEASON**

**LEGALIZED GENOCIDE OF  
COLORED PEOPLE**

**BEN CRUMP**



**Amistad**

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shooter. As an officer of the court, I knew that they arrested people in our community with no evidence at all, and here you had the self-confessed killer with the proverbial smoking gun in his hand and a dead teenager on the ground. I assured Martin that they were going to arrest Zimmerman. He told me that the police said that nothing would happen to the killer of his son because of Florida's Stand Your Ground law.

Tracy Martin's statement held true. Zimmerman was not arrested after the shooting, and the public's reaction was swift. More than 3.5 million people signed a Change.org petition. Basketball superstar LeBron James and the entire Miami Heat team tweeted a picture of themselves wearing Trayvon-style hoodies printed with the words: "We are all Trayvon," which was retweeted more than 5 million times. Thousands of young people occupied New York's Times Square for the Million Hoodie Rally. In a White House speech President Obama said, "This could have been my son." Trayvon Martin's story was the number-one news story in the world in 2012.

Ultimately, Zimmerman was arrested, charged with second-degree murder, and tried. Testimony at the trial revealed that law enforcement ordered Zimmerman not to pursue the teen and to stand down until police arrived. Zimmerman continued to pursue Trayvon. He vehemently asserted that he was attacked by the teenager, although there were differing accounts of who the aggressor truly was.

The most heartbreak aspect of this modern-day tragedy was the testimony of Olivia Bertalan, the second-to-last witness in the case of the *State of Florida v. George Zimmerman*. It was a classic case of stereotyping. For reasons that are inexplicable, this woman—who happened to be white; who had nothing to do with what happened that night of February 26, 2012, between George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin; who didn't know anything about this teenager who was minding his business as he spoke on his cell phone to his friend; and who didn't have any reason to think this young man had committed any crime—was allowed to testify that, nine months earlier, her apartment in the same gated complex had been burglarized by an African American man.

In mentioning her testimony, I in no way mean to belittle the trauma she must have endured as she hid in a closet while her home was being burglarized. However, many trial lawyers who followed the case concluded that the explicit purpose of calling Bertalan to the stand was to plant in the minds of the jurors the idea that Zimmerman had

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# EXHIBIT 2

# KLAYMAN LAW GROUP

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November 30, 2019

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Dear Mr. Crump and Harper Collins:

I represent George Zimmerman. In your new book just released on October 15, 2019 titled *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People* and published by HarperCollins, I note with alarm that you are continuing to try to build a career as a race hustler by defaming my client. Ironically, it is you who are once again declaring "Open Season" on George Zimmerman, this time to try to sell books by again damaging my client's reputation with untrue and defamatory statements, depicting him as attempting to commit genocide. This amounts to defamation per se for which damages under Florida law are presumed. You also are trying to use my client to divide our country using George for your own personal promotion.

You will recall that on March 12, 2012, Sanford Florida Police Chief Bill Lee announced the results of the Sanford police investigation into the Trayvon Martin shooting at a press conference. As you well know, Lee explained that the police investigation had included extensive interviews with eye-witnesses, including Johnathon Good, numerous Retreat at Twin Lakes residents, reviews of 911 calls, examination of the physical evidence including Zimmerman's broken nose and head lacerations and Trayvon's bruised knuckles, and the location of the altercation. You are also aware that your own client, Tracy Martin, had told police that the voice on the 911 tapes screaming for help was not his son. Police Chief Lee declared the shooting was found to be self-defense and there were no grounds to arrest Zimmerman. It was not even a stand your ground case.

Despite this, you not only violated a myriad of ethics rules that govern the behavior of a Florida attorney, but also the law when you began an illegal campaign to defame Zimmerman, incite the

public against him, and influence his girlfriend Brittany Diamond Eugene whom you knew had been on the phone with Trayvon up to the minute of his death. You began your campaign by disseminating into the media a knowingly false narrative that Trayvon was "just buying candy for his little brother" and was "just trying to get home" when he was stalked and attacked by Zimmerman because of his skin color. To further your false narrative, you disseminated a photo to the media of Trayvon when he was only about 10 years old and 5 feet tall, rather than providing recent photos of the 17-year old who stood over six feet tall. You repeated your false narrative in the media often and daily and, in doing so, successfully defrauded and coerced the media, the president, celebrities, and fair-minded people into demanding the arrest of my client with no evidence. Also I'm sure you recall that you recruited others to personally join your defamation and incitement campaign against Zimmerman, such as Reverend Al Sharpton. At a Florida rally with Sharpton in tow, you shouted to the crowd, "we called up to New York City and got someone with a track record!" referring to Sharpton whom you knew was instrumental in spreading the Tawana Brawley race hoax in 1987, had incited violence that led to the Crown Heights riots in 1991, and who had incited anti-Semitic hatred that fueled the Freddie's Fashion Mart massacre in 1995.

With Sharpton's help, your defamation and incitement efforts escalated into massive public protests demanding Zimmerman's arrest, death threats against Zimmerman, and was so "effective" that it even outraged celebrities like Rosanne Barr and Spike Lee such that they tweeted the home address of Zimmerman's parents and invited mob action against Zimmerman's family who were forced into hiding.

Your defamation and incitement campaign against Zimmerman also managed apparently to influence Trayvon's girlfriend, Brittany Diamond Eugene, whom you and your colleagues unethically and illegally coerced into making a recorded phone call repeating your false narrative in order to incriminate Zimmerman. As you know, Brittany Diamond Eugene then refused to speak to prosecutors, and on information and belief, you then helped to prepare the imposter and fake witness, Rachel Jeantel, who told your "made to order" false storyline to prosecutors in order that my client be arrested, tried, and convicted for murder and sentenced to life in prison (or the death penalty), in a case that had already been investigated and closed by the Sanford police department as self-defense.

Mr. Crump, at this time you will be held accountable for your defamatory language in your book titled, *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*. On behalf of my client, I therefore demand that you and your publisher Harper Collins retract the defamatory language by noon, December 4, 2019:

- 1) cease and desist sales of your race hoax book *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*, in all forms: hardcover, eBook, audiobook, and MP3 CD until new versions are produced that does not contain the defamatory material below.
- 2) recall all books currently on any bookstore shelves or in any warehouses of distributors like Amazon and provide an accounting of all sales in all forms to date.
- 3) publicly retract the false and defamatory statements in your book which are defamatory. These include but are not limited to:

*"Testimony at the trial revealed that law enforcement ordered Zimmerman not to pursue the teen and to stand down until police arrived. Zimmerman continued to pursue Trayvon."*

FACTS:

**1 – "law enforcement ordered Zimmerman not to pursue the teen"**

- a) This is false. "Law enforcement" did not order anything. The non-emergency dispatcher Zimmerman was speaking with was not "law enforcement". Your statement falsely implies Zimmerman disregarded instructions of a police officer, implying that Zimmerman did something wrong that led to the death of Trayvon Martin.
- b) Zimmerman was not "ordered not to pursue the teen". After the non-emergency dispatcher repeatedly requested help from Zimmerman in determining where the individual who had circled his car had gone, Zimmerman left his car only to assist the dispatcher. As you know, when the dispatcher asked George if he was following him, Zimmerman said "yeah", and dispatcher stated in response "We don't need you to do that" and Zimmerman said, "okay". He then asked the dispatcher to have an officer meet him near back his vehicle. As Zimmerman was approaching his vehicle was when he was attacked by Trayvon Martin, as all the evidence proved in court where Zimmerman was acquitted in 2013.

**2 – "ordered Zimmerman...to stand down until police arrived"**

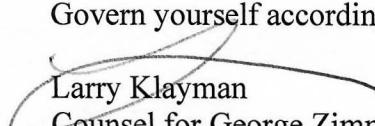
False! No police officer nor any dispatcher ordered Zimmerman "to stand down until police arrived". This statement defames my client and leads the public to believe he acted against instructions of law enforcement.

**3 – "Zimmerman continued to pursue Trayvon"**

This is totally false. The 911 recording and all testimony and evidence at trial proves this statement to be false and yet another attempt to defame and incriminate my client for a charge that he was acquitted of. All evidence presented at trial indicated that Zimmerman told the non-emergency dispatcher he was walking back to his car to meet the officer, and was approached and attacked by Trayvon Martin, the location of the incident was near Zimmerman's car.

On behalf of my client, George Zimmerman, we expect an affirmative response by noon, Wednesday, December 4, 2019 to all of our demands; otherwise we will be compelled to file suit.

Govern yourself accordingly,

  
Larry Klayman  
Counsel for George Zimmerman

cc: Mr. George Zimmerman