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6 *In Propria Persona*

7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

9 **INGENUITY 13 LLC,**

10 *Plaintiff,*

11 v.

12 **JOHN DOE,**

13 *Defendant.*

CASE NO. 2:12-CV-08333-ODW (JCx)

Judge: Hon. Otis D. Wright, II
Magistrate Judge: Hon. Jacqueline Chooljian

14 **DECLARATION OF BRETT L.**
15 **GIBBS SUPPORTING MOTION**
16 **FOR INDICATIVE RULING**

17 Date: November 18, 2013
18 Time: 1:30 p.m.
19 Ct. Room: 11 – Spring St. Floor

20 I, Brett L. Gibbs, declare as follows:

21 1. I am an attorney at law, licensed to practice in California, and admitted in
22 the United States District Court in the Central District of California. My address is 28
23 Altamont Avenue, Mill Valley, CA, 94941.

24 2. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of a document entitled
25 “Release and Settlement Agreement,” sent to me via email on May 16, 2013 from the
26 email address “lutzy199@gmail.com.”
27
28

1 3. Attached as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of a document entitled
2 “Indemnity Agreement,” sent to me via email on May 16, 2013 from the email address
3
4 “lutzy199@gmail.com.”

5 4. Attached as Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of a document entitled,
6 in part, “Ongoing Obligations,” sent to me via email on May 22, 2013 from the email
7
8 address “pduffy@pduffygroup.com.”

9 5. Attached as Exhibit D are true and correct copies of a emails sent to me
10 on February 7, 2013 and April 12, 2012 from the email address
11
12 “johnlstele@gmail.com.”

13 6. Attached as Exhibit E is a true and correct copy of a document entitled,
14 in part, “Prenda Law Profit and Loss Detail,” which was deposited into a “Dropbox”
15
16 account on my computer in early 2013.

17 7. Attached as Exhibit F is a true and correct copy of a document entitled, in
18 part, “Prenda Law Balance Sheet Detail,” which was deposited into a “Dropbox”
19
20 account on my computer in early 2013.

21 8. Attached as Exhibit G, are true and correct .pdf copies of Google Street
22 View images of the home located at 635 South Vanderwall Avenue, West Covina,
23
24 California 91790.

1 9. I received a phone call from Paul Hansmeier (“Hansmeier”) in March,
2 2011 asking if I would be interested in working for a law firm called Steele Hansmeier
3 PLLC.
4

5 10. Hansmeier had been my assigned roommate during my first year at the
6 University of Minnesota Law School (2004-2005). Before that phone call from
7 Hansmeier, however, I had not spoken with him since transferring to the University of
8 California, Hastings College of Law in 2005.
9

10 11. In March of 2013, I was nearing the end of 20 months of debilitating
11 surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy treatments for brain cancer. I had been unable
12 to work in the legal field since my diagnosis had forced me to leave my job with a
13 small Oakland law firm. When Hansmeier contacted me, I was still not ready to
14 return to a full-time position.
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16

17 12. I accepted Hansmeier’s offer to work at Steele Hansmeier, handling all
18 litigation in California. There was an explicit understanding that I would only work as
19 many hours per week as I and my doctors thought advisable.
20

21 13. I worked for Steele Hansmeier PLLC and its successor, Prenda Law, Inc.,
22 from late March 2011 until late February 2013. Until mid-2012, I worked entirely out
23 of my home.
24

25 14. I have testified in several courts, through declarations and in person,
26 regarding the operations of Steele Hansmeier PLLC and Prenda Law, Inc., and my
27
28

1 knowledge of the activities and roles of John Steele, Paul Hansmeier and Paul Duffy
2 in those companies. In all instances, I have testified truthfully.
3

4 15. During the period that I worked for Steele Hansmeier PLLC and Prenda
5 Law, Inc., I talked with John Steele and/or Paul Hansmeier weekly, sometimes daily,
6 and sometimes several times per day. I have telephone billing records of hundreds of
7 hours of calls with these individuals during this period.
8

9 16. After the May 6 Order was filed, Paul Hansmeier telephoned me in an
10 attempt to persuade me to work in concert with the Principals on the appeal.
11

12 17. When Mark Lutz and John Steele filed bar complaints against me, Mark
13 Lutz (or someone on his behalf) forwarded a copy of his complaint to Dan Browning,
14 a reporter at the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, from the email address
15 admin@livewireholdings.com, signed: "Regards, Mark."
16

17 18. Approximately one month before I left Prenda Law, Paul Hansmeier told
18 me, in a telephone conversation, that he and John Steele each owned 50% of a side-
19 business called Under the Bridge Consulting. I did not understand the implications of
20 this statement until seeing payments to Under the Bridge Consulting in the accounting
21 documents attached as Exhibits E and F.
22

23 19. After reviewing Exhibits E and F, I have concluded that Prenda Law had
24 other bank accounts besides the one operating account which is detailed in those
25 Exhibits.
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1 20. I believe that I was intentionally misled by John Steele and Paul
2 Hansmeier in many ways. I unknowingly filed documents containing the forged
3 signature of Alan Cooper. I testified that I complied with this Court’s October 19,
4 2012 Order vacating early discovery because of false statements to me by Paul
5 Hansmeier. I was completely unaware that they were seeding films on The Pirate
6 Bay, misusing the identity of Alan Cooper, pretending that Plaintiffs which they
7 owned were independent clients in which they had no financial interest, and engaging
8 in a range of deceptive and fraudulent activities.
9
10

11
12 21. Prior to the August 28, 2013 hearing in the *Navasca* case, I had not seen
13 or known of the “Engagement Letter” which Duffy questioned me about at that
14 hearing. I believe that it was created after the fact to misrepresent my supposed role
15 and downplay the day-to-day involvement of Steele, Hansmeier, and Duffy.
16

17 22. I apologize to this Court for mischaracterizing the property at 635 South
18 Vanderwall Avenue in West Covina as “a very large estate.” I did not intend to
19 mislead this Court by using this erroneous subjective characterization. I hope that this
20 Court understands that what it first perceived as a lie was an inadvertent mistake that
21 was not intended to deceive.
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24 23. I did not knowingly ignore any Court order in this case. I did not ever
25 testify or act in bad faith before this Court.
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