Nº S258498

#### In the

# Supreme Court

#### of the

# State of California

### JANE DOE,

Plaintiff, Cross-defendant, and Respondent,

v.

CURTIS OLSON,

Defendant, Cross-complainant, and Appellant.

AFTER THE UNPUBLISHED OPINION AFFIRMING AND REVERSING ANTI-SLAPP ORDERS BY THE SECOND DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, DIVISION EIGHT № B286105 HON. MARIA E. STRATTON, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE;

HON. TRICIA A. BIGELOW, PRESIDING JUSTICE; AND HON. ELIZABETH A. GRIMES, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT № SC126806 HON. CRAIG D. KARLAN, JUDGE

#### SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF

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# CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED ENTITIES OR PERSONS

Defendant, Cross-complainant, and Appellant Curtis Olson identifies himself and Plaintiff, Cross-defendant, and Respondent Jane Doe as the interested parties to this review.

Respectfully submitted,

October 22, 2021

By: <u>/s/ Robert M. Dato</u>

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#### SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF

Appellant Curt Olson wishes to bring to this Court's attention the recent Court of Appeal decision in *Weeden v. Hoffman* (Oct. 13, 2021, D078112) \_\_ Cal.App.5th \_\_ [2021 Cal. App. Lexis 849, 2021 WL 4771458]. In *Weeden*, the Court of Appeal held that the litigation privilege does not apply to non-tort claims, as argued in Olson's answering brief on the merits.

The facts of *Weeden* are somewhat complex, but essentially defendant Hoffman filed and recorded a fraudulent abstract of judgment and then threatened the Weedens that he would foreclose on their property, in which he had an extinguished interest. In response, the Weedens sued Hoffman for quiet title, cancellation of an instrument, and slander of title. Hoffman obtained dismissal of all three claims through an anti-SLAPP motion. A key component of the trial court's ruling was that the Weedens "could not demonstrate a probability of prevailing because the litigation privilege applies to bar all three causes of action." (*Weeden, supra*, \_\_ Cal.App.5th at p. \_\_ [typed opn. at p. 9].)

The Court of Appeal reversed in part, finding that the litigation privilege does not apply to non-tort claims (which in that case were quiet title and cancellation of an instrument). The *Weeden* court began its analysis by quoting from this Court's decision in *Action Apartment Assn., Inc. v. City of Santa Monica* (2007) 41 Cal.4th 1232, 1241: " 'The principal purpose of [the litigation privilege] is to afford litigants and witnesses [citation] the utmost freedom of access to the courts without fear of being harassed subsequently *by derivative tort actions*.'" (*Weeden, supra,* 

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\_\_ Cal.App.5th at p. \_\_ [typed opn. at p. 19], italics added by Weeden court.) The court also quoted from Silberg v. Anderson (1990) 50 Cal.3d 205, 212: "Although originally enacted with reference to defamation [citation], the privilege is now held applicable to any communication, whether or not it amounts to a publication [citations], and all torts except malicious prosecution." (Weeden, supra, \_\_ Cal.App.5th at p. \_\_ [typed opn. at p. 19], italics added by Weeden court.)

The Weeden court also relied on the same authorities as those relied on by Olson in holding that "the litigation privilege precludes liability for damages in tort, and generally is not extended to liability based on a claim for breach contract, for example." (Weeden, supra, \_\_ Cal.App.5th at p. \_\_ [typed opn. at p. 20], citing Navellier v. Sletten (2003) 106 Cal.App.4th 763, 773 and Feldman v. 1100 Park Lane Associates (2008) 160 Cal.App.4th 1467, 1486.)

Like other Courts of Appeal that have ruled on this issue, *Weeden* is sound and should be followed. The litigation privilege does not apply to non-tort claims. Respectfully submitted,

## BUCHALTER A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

October 22, 2021

By: <u>/s/ Robert M. Dato</u>

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#### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

(CAL. RULES OF COURT, rule 8.520(c))

I, the undersigned appellate counsel, certify this brief consists of 445 words, exclusive of the portions specified in California Rules of Court, rule 8.520(c)(1), relying on the word count of the Microsoft Word program used to prepare it.

Respectfully submitted,

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(CODE CIV. PROC., §§ 1013, subds. (c), (d) & (g), 1013a, subd. (2); CAL. RULES OF COURT, rules 8.25(a), 8.29,
8.70–8.79, 8.212(c)(1)(3) & 8.520(f)(7); CAL. SUPREME COURT, RULES REGARDING ELECTRONIC FILING, rule 2 [as amended Mar. 18, 2020])

STATE OF CALIFORNIA } } ss. COUNTY OF ORANGE }

My name is Robert M. Dato. My business address is Buchalter, A Professional Corporation, 18400 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 800, Irvine, California 92612. My electronic service address is <rdato@buchalter.com>. I am an active member of the State Bar of California. I am not a party to the cause.

On October 22, 2021, at Irvine, California, I served the foregoing document entitled SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF on each interested party in this action, as indicated on the attached Service List, as follows:

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> <u>/s/ Robert M. Dato</u> Robert M. Dato

## SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA № S258498

#### CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION EIGHT № B286105

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Superior Court

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