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DEPUTY

Counsel for Plaintiffs

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ADA**

ST. LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM, LTD; ST.
LUKE'S REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,
LTD; CHRIS ROTH, an individual; and
NATASHA D. ERICKSON, MD, an
individual,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

AMMON BUNDY, an individual; AMMON
BUNDY FOR GOVERNOR, a political
organization; DIEGO RODRIGUEZ, an
individual; FREEDOM MAN PRESS LLC, a
limited liability company; FREEDOM MAN
PAC, a registered political action committee;
and PEOPLE'S RIGHTS NETWORK, a
political organization,

Defendants.

Case No. **CV 01 22 06789**

**ST. LUKE'S COMPLAINT AND
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

St. Luke's Health System, Ltd. ("SLHS"), St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Ltd. ("SLRMC"), Chris Roth ("Mr. Roth"), and Dr. Natasha D. Erickson ("Dr. Erickson"), collectively "St. Luke's Parties" or "Plaintiffs," by and through their counsel, Holland & Hart, LLP, hereby bring this Complaint against Ammon Bundy ("Bundy"), Ammon Bundy for Governor ("Bundy Campaign"), Diego Rodriguez ("Rodriguez"), Freedom Man Press LLC

("FMP"), Freedom Man PAC ("FM PAC"), and the People's Rights Network ("PRN"), collectively "Defendants," and allege as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. Seeking to benefit financially and to enhance their standing among their followers, Bundy (a candidate for Governor and founder of the activist People's Rights Network) and Rodriguez (an aspiring political and religious figure and consultant for the Bundy Campaign) acted in concert with the other Defendants to launch a knowingly dishonest and baseless smear campaign that claimed Idaho State employees, the judiciary, the police, primary care providers, and the St. Luke's Parties engaged in widespread kidnapping, trafficking, and killing of Idaho children.

2. In furtherance of their campaign, Defendants used slick marketing tactics and disinformation to launch a coordinated attack of defamation and organized business disruption against the St. Luke's Parties. Defendants made no effort to conceal their improper objectives. Indeed, they publicly declared that they wanted to subject the St. Luke's Parties to unrelenting public shaming that would cause reputational damage and humiliation of such intensity that SLHS and SLRMC would be run out of business and Mr. Roth, CEO of SLHS, and Dr. Erickson, a St. Luke's pediatric physician, would lose their careers and be shunned by their friends, colleagues, neighbors, spouses, and children.

3. As a premise for their wrongful actions, Defendants mischaracterized the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's ("DHW") decision to intervene to ensure the health and safety of [REDACTED]. Bundy, Rodriguez, and the other Defendants falsely claimed that DHW's intervention was wholly without basis and was an example of the widespread government conspiracy of kidnapping, trafficking, and killing of children for financial gain.

4. Defendants falsely stated that the St. Luke's Parties were participants in this nefarious organized ring and had participated in the kidnapping and mistreatment of the Infant. Among other things, Defendants falsely stated that (1) the St. Luke's Parties initiated and caused the State's intervention relating to the Infant, (2) the Infant had no need for medical care from the St. Luke's Parties, (3) the St. Luke's Parties provided unnecessary and improper medical treatment to drive up medical bills for the Infant's parents, (4) the St. Luke's Parties harmed the Infant, and (5) the St. Luke's Parties had the authority to release the Infant but were illegally refusing to do so. The Defendants made these false statements and others relating to the St. Luke's Parties while knowing the statements to be without factual basis or recklessly disregarding the truth.

5. Bundy and Rodriguez coordinated the wrongful attacks to further a number of improper objectives, including (1) to harm the St. Luke's Parties, (2) to subvert the authority and rulings of the judiciary through harassment, (3) to mislead and manipulate their followers, (4) to enhance their political reputations and personal brands, (5) to grow membership in the PRN, (6) to drive traffic to Defendants' websites, and (7) to benefit themselves financially through financial contributions to the Bundy Campaign, Rodriguez's political action committee (FM PAC), the PRN, and a charity benefitting Rodriguez's family.

6. The St. Luke's Parties bring this lawsuit to protect patients and staff from further harm and harassment and to ensure that political bullying does not prevent St. Luke's from furthering its mission to improve the health of people in the communities it serves.

PARTIES, VENUE, AND JURISDICTION

7. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff SLHS was and is a not-for-profit corporation doing business in Idaho with its principal places of business in Ada County, Idaho.

8. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff SLRMC was and is a not-for-profit corporation doing business in Idaho with its principal places of business in Ada County, Idaho.

9. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff Mr. Roth was and is President and CEO of SLHS and a resident of Idaho.

10. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff Dr. Erickson was and is a physician specializing in pediatric medicine. She is an employee of SLRMC and a resident of Idaho.

11. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Ammon Bundy was and is a resident of Idaho. Bundy controls the Bundy Campaign and is the founder and leader of the PRN. Through his control of the PRN, Bundy effectively controls PRN's website, peoplesrights.org.

12. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Bundy Campaign was and is an Idaho political organization formed for the purpose of raising money to support Bundy's effort to become Governor of Idaho. Aaron Welling is the treasurer for the Bundy Campaign.

13. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Rodriguez was and is a resident of Idaho. Rodriguez represents himself as a world-renowned marketing consultant, motivational speaker, religious leader, author, and political activist. On information and belief, Rodriguez is a leader in the PRN, serves as a consultant to the Bundy Campaign, controls the FMP and the FM PAC, and writes political attack columns for FMP under the alias "Gunner Steele." Rodriguez receives money from the Bundy Campaign through one of his business entities, Power Marketing.

14. At all times relevant hereto, and based on information on freedomman.org, Defendant FMP is a limited liability company which owns and controls freedomman.org, a website that specializes in political attacks and advocates for the harassment of political

opponents through “doxing.” FMP is not registered as an LLC in Idaho or registered to do business in Idaho. On information and belief, FMP and its website are controlled by Rodriguez.

15. At all times relevant hereto, FM PAC is and was an Idaho registered political action committee formed by and controlled by Rodriguez. FM PAC works in coordination with FMP and is promoted on freedomman.org.

16. At all times relevant hereto, the PRN is an association of over 50,000 members which owns and operates the peoplesrights.org website. PRN markets itself as a network designed to defeat “government criminals” who seek to take away rights and freedoms. On information and belief, Defendant Ammon Bundy founded and controls the PRN. On information and belief, at all times relevant hereto, PRN is controlled through Bundy’s operations in Emmett, Idaho.

17. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Idaho Code § 1-705 and personal jurisdiction over the Defendants pursuant to Idaho Code § 5-514.

18. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Idaho Code §§ 5-401 and 5-404.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

Role of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in Child Welfare

19. Idaho’s laws regarding child safety are primarily administered and implemented by DHW.

20. Idaho law imposes mandatory reporting requirements on Idaho residents to report concerns about a child’s safety.

21. When a report is filed regarding child safety, DHW assesses the severity of the case. In high-danger cases, a social worker and possibly police visit the family to check on the child. Based on the visit and in consultation with the social or healthcare workers, police decide

whether to declare the child in imminent danger. If the child is in imminent danger, police may place the child in temporary custody with DHW until a hearing can be held.

The Role of St. Luke's in Child Health

22. SLHS is the only Idaho-based not-for-profit health care system. SLRMC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SLHS, operates hospitals in Boise ("St. Luke's Boise") and Meridian ("St. Luke's Meridian"). SLHS and SLRMC share the same mission: to improve the health of people in the communities they serve.

23. The St. Luke's Parties are subject to State and Federal law. If a child is determined to be in imminent danger because of health issues and is transported to a St. Luke's hospital, the St. Luke's Parties will care for the child. However, SLHS and SLRMC are not agents of DHW or any other State of Idaho department. Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson are employees of SLHS and SLRMC, respectively. They take no direction from DHW or any other State department.

St. Luke's Care for the Infant

24. On March 1, 2022, the parents took the Infant to the St. Luke's Boise emergency room (ER) because the Infant had reportedly been [REDACTED] and had [REDACTED].

25. A St. Luke's ER provider treated the Infant for [REDACTED]. Then, in consultation with the on-call pediatric specialist, Plaintiff Dr. Natasha Erickson, the ER provider admitted the Infant. The parents agreed to admission.

26. Upon admission, St. Luke's began to treat the Infant with [REDACTED]. On March 2, 2022, a St. Luke's dietician diagnosed [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

Due to this [REDACTED], the dietician and Dr. Erickson agreed on a plan to feed the Infant [REDACTED].

27. The Infant continued to struggle with oral feeding. Nevertheless, the parents repeatedly sought to take the Infant home early despite the risk to the Infant.

28. On March 3, 2022, Dr. Erickson met with the Infant's parents, and explained that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The parents agreed to let the Infant stay at St. Luke's for another day.

29. On March 4, 2022, the Infant's [REDACTED]. Although Dr. Erickson recommended [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Dr. Erickson agreed to discharge the Infant at the parent's request with [REDACTED]. Dr. Erickson explained that the Infant [REDACTED]

30. The parents were with the Infant throughout the Infant's hospitalization. They consented to all care at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center.

31. Neither Dr. Erickson nor any St. Luke's employee-initiated contact with child welfare or any other division of DHW regarding the Infant's hospitalization.

The Infant's Parents Fail to Attend Follow-Up Appointments

32. Following discharge, St. Luke's tried to arrange a visit at the Infant's home on March 5 and March 6, 2022. However, the Infant's parents did not return their phone calls.

33. On information and belief, on March 7, 2022, the Infant's parents attended a follow-up appointment with the Infant's new primary care provider (PCP), who is not affiliated with St. Luke's. The appointment revealed the Infant [REDACTED]. A follow up appointment was scheduled for March 10, 2022.

34. On information and belief, the parents attended the March 10, 2022, appointment. Again, the appointment revealed the Infant [REDACTED]. The PCP asked the Infant's parents to bring the Infant back for a [REDACTED] on March 11, 2022.

35. On information and belief, the Infant's parents failed to bring the Infant to the scheduled [REDACTED] on the morning of March 11, 2022. When the family failed to appear for the [REDACTED], on information and belief, the Infant's PCP referred the situation to DHW.

36. On information and belief, after hearing from the PCP, DHW determined that the Infant was in immediate danger involving a life threatening and/or emergency situation. DHW notified the Meridian Police Department in accordance with DHW's standard practice. On information and belief, the Meridian PD began trying to locate the Infant.

37. Later on, March 11, 2022, DHW reached out to a nurse practitioner at St. Luke's CARES (Children at Risk Evaluation Services). The DHW safety assessor asked the CARES nurse practitioner for a consult on the Infant's Priority I referral. The nurse practitioner told DHW and the Meridian PD that if the family wanted to bring the Infant to St. Luke's voluntarily, the nurse practitioner would stay late that afternoon to save the family another visit to the ER.

38. On information and belief, the Meridian PD continued to try and get a response from the parents and tried to locate the Infant.

39. That afternoon, DHW spoke by phone to the Infant's father, who said that the Infant and the Infant's mother were sleeping, but that they would come to CARES when they woke up. Despite the representation from the Infant's father, the Infant was not brought to CARES.

Police Take Custody of the Infant

40. On information and belief, later on March 11, 2022, Meridian police went to the family's residence to check on the Infant's safety. On information and belief, the family refused to cooperate, provide information, or let the officers see the Infant, forcing the police to get a warrant.

41. Defendant Rodriguez stated he was present when the police visited the residence and was aware, at least by the time of the visit, that the police were looking for the Infant out of concern for the Infant's health.

42. On information and belief, Rodriguez took no steps to assist the police in obtaining information regarding the Infant.

43. On information and belief, when the police left the house to get a warrant, the Infant and the Infant's parents moved to another location.

44. Believing the Infant was at risk of imminent harm due to the Infant's [REDACTED], the parents' failure to follow medical advice, and the family's refusal to provide the police with information, the Meridian PD alerted its officers that the Infant was in danger and instructed them to look for the parents' vehicle.

45. On information and belief, the police located the Infant and the Infant's parents late on the night of March 11, 2022, in Garden City. When the Infant's parents refused to

cooperate, the police took custody of the Infant and transported the Infant to St. Luke's Meridian in an ambulance.

46. At the time the Infant was taken into custody, the parents were informed that there would be a court hearing within 48 hours and that the ultimate objectives were to assure the safety of the Infant and keep the family unit intact.

The Infant [REDACTED] at St. Luke's Boise

47. In the early hours of Saturday, March 12, 2022, providers at St. Luke's Meridian evaluated the Infant and quickly decided to transfer the Infant to the pediatric floor of the St. Luke's Boise Medical Center for [REDACTED].

48. When the ten-month-old Infant was admitted to St. Luke's in Boise for a second time, the Infant [REDACTED]. The Infant had [REDACTED] [REDACTED] eight days earlier. The Infant's [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Infant's [REDACTED]. The Infant's [REDACTED]. The Infant had [REDACTED]. The Infant's [REDACTED] from March 4 to March 11, 2022.

49. Once again, St. Luke's [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Infant's [REDACTED]. The Infant began [REDACTED].

50. St. Luke's providers gave the Infant's parents detailed updates on the Infant's [REDACTED]. But despite the Infant's [REDACTED], the parents refused to provide medical information, including birth records, newborn screening, and prior medical records.

51. St. Luke's updated the Infant's parents on the Infant's status throughout the Infant's treatment. The Infant's parents consented to the Infant's treatment plan.

52. Contrary to Defendants' statements, St. Luke's did not vaccinate the Infant against the wishes of the parents. The St. Luke's Parties did not "harm [the Infant] in irreparable ways." Nor did they "abuse" the Infant. As explained below, such statements were false and were intended to attract media attention, incite followers, collect donations, disrupt hospital operations, and defame the St. Luke's Parties.

The Infant is Discharged and Returned to His Family

53. Once again, the Infant's condition [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. On March 15, 2022, St. Luke's discharged the Infant as the Infant was [REDACTED] and healthy enough for outpatient care. St. Luke's decision to discharge the Infant was purely based on the Infant's medical condition, not the ongoing protests, pressure, or threats from Defendants or their followers discussed below.

54. The court proceedings relating to the Infant are confidential.

55. St. Luke's discharged the Infant to DHW, which in turn released the Infant to his parents on March 18, 2022.

Defendants Create a False Narrative

56. As alleged above, St. Luke's doctors treated the Infant's [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Infant was returned to the parents. DHW acted to ensure the safety of the Infant and pursued the goal of returning the Infant to the parents. The confidential court proceedings provided for by statute occurred.

57. Nevertheless, Bundy, Rodriguez, and the other Defendants chose to exploit the events surrounding DHS's intervention and the Infant's care.

58. Defendants' prestige, political influence, personal brands, and revenue all depend on Defendants' ability to market themselves as leaders in the fight against governmental overreach.

59. Defendants perceived the events surrounding DHW's intervention as an opportunity to spread their lies and further their agendas. They realized that the facts surrounding DHW's intervention could be mischaracterized as a governmental conspiracy to kidnap, traffic, and kill children. Then, in turn, Defendants realized they could establish themselves as crusaders against their falsely manufactured governmental conspiracy.

60. To that end, Defendants worked together to manufacture a false narrative of a state-sponsored child kidnapping and trafficking ring that included DHW, the police, the Idaho Judiciary, the Infant's PCP, and the St. Luke's Parties.

61. In support of their wrongful objectives, Defendants defamed the supposed members of the kidnapping and child trafficking ring and then incited their followers by stating that countless children, like the Infant, would be kidnapped, trafficked, and potentially killed unless immediate action was taken to destroy the St. Luke's Parties and others.

62. Defendants acted in concert to disseminate this false narrative. Evidence indicates that Bundy, Rodriguez, and the other Defendants coordinated talking points and the timing of demonstrations and provided the same directions to followers regarding how to disrupt the St. Luke's Parties. They told their followers to target the same individuals for doxing and harassment. Defendants mirrored false statements across the websites and social media they controlled.

63. Defendants operated as a single enterprise to defame and harm the St. Luke's Parties and others.

Defendants Knowingly Harmed the St. Luke's Parties

64. Defendants were aware of the likely impact of their joint actions. When they developed their plan, Bundy, Rodriguez, and the other Defendants knew that spreading their false claims would result in damage to the St. Luke's Parties, including death threats, business interruption, trespass, reputational damage, menacing crowds, and potentially mob violence.

65. Despite foreseeing the consequences, Bundy, Rodriguez, and the other Defendants acted to maximize harm and damage. As Rodriguez bragged publicly, Defendants wanted to harass and shame the St. Luke's Parties with claims of child kidnapping and murder such that St. Luke's employees would be shunned by their families and lose their careers, while St. Luke's itself would be run out of business.

66. Bundy, Rodriguez, and the other Defendants knew that a legal process existed to address the custody and welfare of the Infant.

67. Defendants knew their harassment would not deter those targeted from doing what was best for the Infant. They knew that the judge would not be cowed into changing how she would rule in the case. They knew that DHW would not act contrary to what it believed was in the best interest of the Infant. They knew the St. Luke's Parties would not discharge the Infant until the Infant was medically ready for discharge. And they knew the St. Luke's Parties did not have the authority to determine whether the Infant would be discharged home or to a foster family.

68. Despite knowing that DHW, the trial court, and the St. Luke's Parties would not be threatened into abandoning the law or the Infant's best interests, Defendants engaged in their coordinated false statements and wrongful acts. Defendants did so because their wrongful acts were motivated by other goals.

69. The facts and circumstances indicate that Defendants' motives in creating and disseminating the false kidnapping and child trafficking narrative included, but are not limited to: (1) generating interest in the Bundy Campaign; (2) raising the political profiles and personal brands of Bundy and Rodriguez, especially within the People's Rights Network and other political groups; (3) driving web traffic to sites controlled by Defendants; (4) solidifying control over their followers; and (5) creating financial gain in the form of donations to Bundy's campaign, Rodriguez's PAC, and a fund that was established for Rodriguez's family.

False Narrative Regarding DHW's Intervention

70. Understanding the need to create a narrative that served a larger conspiracy theory, Rodriguez misrepresented the circumstances that led to DHW's intervention regarding the Infant. Among other things, Rodriguez, with assistance from the other Defendants, falsely asserted that the Infant was not at risk and had a "100% clean bill of health" when taken into custody, that the parents had only missed a single medical appointment, and that Dr. Erickson had reported the parents and the Infant to DHW.

71. In truth, Rodriguez knew or should have known that the Infant was [REDACTED] and faced significant [REDACTED]. Rodriguez knew the parents had failed to follow several steps needed to ensure the Infant was receiving needed medical care and failed to respond to those properly seeking information regarding the health of the Infant. Rodriguez further understood that he had no factual basis to assert that Dr. Erickson had contacted DHW. Dr. Erickson never contacted DHW regarding the Infant.

Bundy Trespasses at St. Luke's Meridian to Generate Publicity and Contributions

72. Bundy has a history of forcing confrontation with police to generate publicity for himself and his political agenda.

73. Shortly after the police took the Infant into custody, Bundy was made aware and took action to garner publicity.

74. When Bundy learned that police had transported the Infant to St. Luke's in Meridian, Bundy and a group of his followers travelled to the hospital for the purpose of initiating a conflict with the police and potentially getting arrested. He knew that by orchestrating a protest and arrest at the hospital that he would win media attention, enhance his brand, and likely generate financial contributions for himself and the Bundy Campaign.

75. On Saturday, March 12, 2022, at around 1:30 a.m., Bundy and his followers entered the ambulance bay at St. Luke's in Meridian—a primary access point for medical emergencies. Once there, the group yelled and cursed at hospital staff and uniformed police officers. Bundy's followers were prepared with their cameras and immediately shared the confrontation on social media.

76. St. Luke's security guards recognized Bundy, based on his actions and direction of the crowd, as “the catalyst and aggressor in the group.”

77. Hospital staff explained to Bundy and his followers that the group was blocking emergency access to the ambulance bay and asked them to move to a nearby area where they would not block patient access. Following Bundy's lead, the group refused to move and continued to harass hospital staff.

78. Hospital staff told Bundy and his followers that they would be trespassing if they stayed in the ambulance bay. Once again, the group refused to leave.

79. Recognizing that Bundy's followers were growing more numerous and menacing, a hospital supervisor tried to reason with Bundy and deescalate the situation. For the benefit of those there to film him, Bundy responded by accusing the supervisor of kidnapping and then

demanded that he give Bundy the Infant. Bundy knew full well he had no legal authority to make that demand because he had no parental rights over the Infant.

80. Bundy knew that St. Luke's would not and could not as a matter of law release the Infant into Bundy's custody.

81. Hospital staff repeatedly warned Bundy and his followers to clear the ambulance bay. Bundy heard and refused to heed the warnings on at least three occasions.

82. Bundy knew the police had no option but to arrest him for trespass. As he intended, the police arrested him just before 2:00 a.m. on March 12, 2022.

83. Bundy's followers recorded his arrest for social media and then dispersed.

84. The police released Bundy a few hours after his trespass.

85. Upon his release, Bundy immediately began to publicize his arrest. In accordance with the messaging campaign developed by Rodriguez (a paid marketing consultant for the Bundy Campaign), Bundy mischaracterized the Infant as having been in good health, falsely stated the Infant had been kidnapped from his parents because a single appointment was missed, indicated the Infant's health was at risk in the hospital, falsely stated that he had been arrested for trespass without warning and justification, and directed his followers to the freedomman.org website which already contained messaging supporting the false kidnapping and child trafficking narrative.

86. Shortly thereafter, the Bundy Campaign and PRN likewise began to publish the same false narrative regarding the Infant's care at St. Luke's and regarding Bundy's arrest at St. Luke's in Meridian.

Concerted Effort to Disrupt St. Luke's Business

87. To further their false narrative, Defendants made false statements regarding the Infants' care and repeatedly defamed the St. Luke's Parties. In addition, Defendants repeatedly told their followers that the St. Luke's Parties need to be punished and directed their followers on how to shame the St. Luke's Parties and disrupt St. Luke's operations.

88. Defendants incited their followers by publishing patently untrue statements and providing direction to cause harm, including stating the following:

- a. St. Luke's Parties were running a child trafficking ring subsidized by tax dollars;
- b. St. Luke's Parties were abusing and harming the Infant in irreparable ways;
- c. St. Luke's Parties harmed and killed babies all the time;
- d. St. Luke's Parties kidnapped the Infant and other children;
- e. St. Luke's Parties were "moronic imbeciles" who neglected the Infant;
- f. St. Luke's Parties stole the Infant;
- g. St. Luke's changed the Infant into someone who was unrecognizable, lethargic, and unresponsive;
- h. St. Luke's failed to keep the Infant clean;
- i. St. Luke's caused the Infant "suspicious" bruising;
- j. St. Luke's lied about the Infant's treatment;
- k. St. Luke's Parties vaccinated the Infant against the family's wishes;
- l. St. Luke's Parties were "medically negligent";
- m. St. Luke's was "world famous" for "mistreating people," "killing people," and "stealing babies from their parents";
- n. St. Luke's forced the Infant to take "toxic poison" which was then allowed to stay in the Infant's body for days;

o. St. Luke's Parties changed and falsified information in the medical records to protect themselves;

p. Mr. Roth was guilty of criminal accessory of child abduction and deprivation of rights under color of law;

q. Mr. Roth personally profited from the pandemic;

r. Dr. Erickson was responsible for the Infant's kidnapping;

s. Dr. Erickson participated in kidnapping "hundreds of children" with the help of a judge;

t. The Infant "possibly could lose his life because of the decisions of people [at St. Luke's] who don't even care" about the Infant;

u. The hospital made the Infant "more sickly";

v. Followers should put "physical pressure" on those "that are causing the problem";

w. Followers should disrupt St. Luke's operations by protesting, calling in, donating money, making noise, and giving the hospital "hell";

x. God should "crush the necks of those that are evil."

89. Defendants caused disruption to St. Luke's operations, harmed staff and patients, and impaired patient care inside the hospital.

90. Between March 12 and March 17, 2022, Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez called on their followers to protest at St. Luke's in Boise. In response, crowds, many of whom carried firearms, began to join Bundy and Rodriguez at the hospital in a concerted effort to disrupt the hospital's operations.

91. Rodriguez became a daily presence at the hospital. Rodriguez conducted defamatory "press conferences" outside the St. Luke's Boise hospital.

92. Incited by Defendants, the crowd of followers harassed patients and staff, and disrupted patient care. Patients reported feeling anxious and fearful because of Defendants' noisy and menacing protests.

93. On March 15, 2022, Defendants went so far as to cause St. Luke's to go into lockdown for more than an hour. During this time, nurses, doctors, and other employees could not enter or exit the building. St. Luke's directed patients to other facilities and rerouted ambulances to other sites.

94. Defendants also organized a campaign of technological disruption. They encouraged their followers to flood St. Luke's phone lines and email inboxes in an effort to shut down St. Luke's operations. Defendants' followers jammed phone lines with menacing calls (including death threats), sent threatening emails, and sent spam emails to disrupt servers.

Solicitations for Donations to Rodriguez's Family

95. Concurrently while acting to harm the St. Luke's Parties, Rodriguez, with help from the other Defendants, solicited money based on false representations relating to the Infant, the circumstances leading to DHW's intervention, the parents' financial condition, and the St. Luke's Parties.

96. A center piece in almost every one of Rodriguez's media appearances was a solicitation for donations to his family members, the parents of the Infant. Likewise, the solicitation for donations was advertised on peoplesrights.org and freedomman.org.

97. Theses solicitations for charitable contributions were made based on the defamatory statements about the St. Luke's Parties and others kidnapping, trafficking, and killing children.

98. The solicitations were also premised on false statements regarding the parents' liability for the medical care provided by SLHS, SLRMC, and Dr. Erickson. Rodriguez repeatedly stated that the St. Luke's Parties were performing unnecessary medical tests and

treatments on the Infant, unnecessarily extending the Infant's time at the hospital to increase costs and extorting the Infant's parents. These statements were false.

99. As Rodriguez knew or recklessly failed to learn, the parents did not have significant financial liability relating to the Infant's care. While the Infant's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the parents were uninsured, governmental assistance and St. Luke's policies alleviated any significant financial burden.

100. While the Infant was [REDACTED], the Infant's parents were made aware that significant costs were being covered by government assistance. St. Luke's also took steps to assist the parents in minimizing the financial impact of the healthcare provided to the Infant. For example, when the Infant's parents expressed concerns about paying for the hospital stay during the Infant's first admission, a St. Luke's employee screened the family and informed them that they likely qualified for Medicaid assistance.

101. A patient care coordinator passed their concerns along to a patient financial advocate (PFA), and the PFA spoke with the Infant's mother on March 2, 2022, to discuss financial assistance options. The PFA screened the family for Medicaid and advised the Infant's mother that, given their reported family income, the Infant qualified for Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) under Medicaid. The employee later tried to call the Infant's parents on March 3, 2022, and March 8, 2022, to offer further assistance, but the parents did not answer or return the calls.

102. St. Luke's currently estimates that Medicaid will cover the Infant's medical bills for both ER visits and admissions. Despite absence of insurance, the Infant's family is unlikely to have any outstanding balance due to St. Luke's.

103. Despite knowing that the Infant's parents had not incurred significant liability for the medical care received at SLRMC, Rodriguez, assisted by the other Defendants, continued to solicit donations, and received more than \$110,000 based on misrepresentations that the St. Luke's Parties had engaged in wrongdoing and that St. Luke's had created huge financial liability for Rodriguez's family.

Defendants Continue to Defame and Call for Harassment

104. Defendants' efforts to disrupt and dismantle St. Luke's and defame Plaintiffs did not stop when the Infant was discharged.

105. Seeking to continue to benefit politically and financially from the false conspiracy Defendants manufactured, Rodriguez recently created the group "People Against Child Trafficking."

106. On March 26, 2022, Bundy and Rodriguez organized a rally on property owned by one of Bundy's companies.

107. The rally was heavily advertised by Defendants and was exploited as a fundraising event by the Bundy Campaign.

108. During the March 26, 2022, rally, Defendants continued to make false, defamatory statements about the St. Luke's parties, including the following:

a. Defendant Rodriguez stated Dr. Erickson kept the Infant in the hospital to "rack[] up the bill" while displaying defamatory images of Dr. Erickson on a large movie screen;

b. Defendant Rodriguez stated the St. Luke's Parties engaged in kidnapping and child trafficking for money;

c. Defendant Rodriguez indicated that the St. Luke's Parties were taking part in the "greatest child trafficking ring in the history of the world"; and

d. Defendant Bundy described the St. Luke's Parties as equivalent to rapists, comparing the St. Luke's Parties to "feudal lords" practicing "præ noctis";¹

109. At the March 26, 2022, rally on the Bundy Property, Rodriguez bragged about shutting down St. Luke's phones system such that St. Luke's "couldn't even operate."

110. At the March 26, 2022, rally, Defendants used defamatory speech to incite people to join PRN and to take the fight against the St. Luke's Parties and other supposed kidnappers and child traffickers "all the way to the end."

111. The defamatory statements made at the March 26, 2022, rally were streamed and the video was later posted to social media sites and to websites controlled by Defendants.

**COUNT I
(DEFAMATION (LIBEL AND SLANDER)—
ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

112. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

113. Defendants have published false, misleading, and defamatory statements about Plaintiffs directed to third parties including, but not limited to:

a. Defendant Rodriguez falsely and publicly accused St. Luke's of being "world famous" for "mistreating people," "killing people," and "stealing babies from their parents."

b. Defendant Rodriguez falsely and publicly accused St. Luke's of forcing the Infant to take "toxic poison."

c. Defendant Rodriguez falsely and publicly accused Plaintiffs of participating in an "organized crime ring" and "harming" the Infant.

d. Defendants falsely and publicly accused Plaintiffs of kidnapping children.

¹ Præ noctis names an ancient tradition in which all noble lords had the right to have sex with any female subject, regardless of her will, and even with a virgin bride on her wedding night. <https://www.dictionary.com/e/historical-current-events/præ-noctis/#:~:text=Præ%20noctis%20is%20the%20semi,particularly%20on%20her%20wedding%20night>.

e. Defendants repeatedly told their followers and supporters to disrupt St. Luke's operations by protesting, calling in, donating money, and making noise. Followers heeded these commands, resulting in serious threats to Plaintiffs.

f. Defendant PRN published a wanted poster featuring a headshot of Mr. Roth with the caption: "WANTED: Chris Roth, President/CEO of St. Luke's." Under the headshot, the website falsely accused Mr. Roth of "Criminal accessory of child abduction and deprivation of rights under color of law." Defendants encouraged protestors to make signs using this image.

g. Defendant FMP published a list of pictures under the heading: "Main People Responsible for [REDACTED] Kidnapping." Dr. Erickson's picture was the first on the list. FMP then falsely stated that Dr. Erickson "was the first to call CPS" and accused her of being "the initial trigger that got everything started."

h. Defendant Rodriguez falsely and publicly stated that Dr. Erickson "had a panic attack and literally sent a CPS worker or social worker to [Rodriguez's] daughter's hospital room to interview her."

i. Defendant Rodriguez falsely and publicly stated that Dr. Erickson is incompetent at her profession, stating the "hospital doesn't understand even the basic common-sense things that anybody understands."

j. Defendants FMP and Rodriguez published the false statement that experts at St. Luke's "harm and kill babies all the time." This false accusation is intended to defame doctors at St. Luke's including Dr. Erickson.

k. Defendant Bundy falsely and publicly accused Judge Fortier of taking "hundreds of children . . . with this Doctor Natasha D. Erickson."

114. These statements were false.

115. At the time Defendants made the statements, they knew the statements were false, or made the statements with reckless disregard for their truth and made such statements with malice.

116. Defendants' statements were not subject to privilege or justified communications.

117. Defendants made or published the statements with the purpose of defaming or disparaging Plaintiffs, in an effort to injure Plaintiffs' business and reputation.

118. Defendants' statements involve false allegations of criminal activity and/or involve matters incompatible with business, trade, profession, or office, and are defamatory *per se*.

119. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' publication of such statements, Plaintiffs have suffered economic and non-economic harm in an amount to be proven at trial.

120. Because Defendants' statements were made knowingly, intentionally, willfully, and/or maliciously, Plaintiffs reserve the right to seek an amendment to add a request for punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT II
(INVASION OF PRIVACY—MR. ROTH AND DR. ERICKSON AGAINST ALL
DEFENDANTS)**

121. Plaintiffs Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson incorporate the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

122. Through their actions described above, Defendants have published materially false statements concerning Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson to third parties.

123. These statements were false.

124. These statements placed Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson in a false light in the public eye.

125. At the time Defendants made the statements, they knew the statements were false, or made the statements with reckless disregard for their truth and made such statements with malice.

126. Defendants' statements were not subject to privilege or justified communications.

127. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' publication of such statements, Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

128. Because Defendants' actions were done knowingly, intentionally, willfully, and/or maliciously, Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson reserve the right to seek an amendment adding a request for punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT III
(INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS—
MR. ROTH AND DR. ERICKSON AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

129. Plaintiffs Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson incorporate the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

130. Through their actions described above, Defendants engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct that went beyond all possible bounds of decency in a civilized society.

131. Defendants' conduct was intentional or reckless.

132. As an actual or proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson suffered the requisite injuries.

133. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

134. Because Defendants' actions were done knowingly, intentionally, willfully, and/or maliciously, Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson reserve the right to seek an amendment adding a request for punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT IV
(TRESPASS-SLHS AND SLMRC AGAINST BUNDY AND RODRIGUEZ)
(COMMON LAW)**

135. Plaintiffs SLHS and SLRMC incorporate the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.

136. Defendant Bundy entered the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property on Saturday, March 12, 2022.

137. Defendant Bundy did not have permission to be in the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property.

138. Defendant Bundy remained in the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property after being instructed to leave and blocked access to the ambulance bay.

139. The ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property is restricted to authorized medical and emergency personnel.

140. Defendant Bundy's presence in the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property interfered with St. Luke's ability to provide medical care to patients and conduct its business.

141. Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez entered St. Luke's Boise property on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, while leading a large crowd for the express purpose of disrupting hospital operations and generate publicity for a political cause.

142. Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez did not have permission to enter or remain on St. Luke's Boise property because they were not seeking medical care or treatment and were not authorized visitors.

143. Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez interfered with hospital staff, blocked public access to the hospital, and disrupted hospital operations.

144. Defendants Bundy's and Rodriguez's presence at St. Luke's Boise property interfered with St. Luke's ability to provide medical care to patients and conduct its business.

145. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Bundy's and Rodriguez's actions, Plaintiff St. Luke's has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT V
(TRESPASS-SLHS AND SLRMC AGAINST BUNDY AND RODRIGUEZ)
(STATUTORY TRESPASS PURSUANT TO I.C. § 6-202)

146. Plaintiffs SLHS and SLRMC incorporate the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.

147. Defendant Bundy entered the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property on Saturday, March 12, 2022.

148. Defendant Bundy did not have permission to be in the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property.

149. Defendant Bundy acted intentionally and willfully when he entered and remained in the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property.

150. Defendant Bundy remained in the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property after being instructed to leave and blocked access to the ambulance bay.

151. The ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property is not open to the public and is not accessible by the public. Entry into the ambulance bay is restricted to authorized medical personnel, emergency responders, and patients seeking emergency care.

152. Defendant Bundy's presence in the ambulance bay at St. Luke's Meridian property interfered with St. Luke's ability to provide medical care to patients and conduct its business.

153. Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez entered St. Luke's Boise property on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, as protestors.

154. Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez acted intentionally and willfully when they entered and remained present at St. Luke's Boise property.

155. St. Luke's Boise property is open to the public who are actively seeking medical care or treatment. St. Luke's lawfully restricts access to its Boise property to patients and authorized visitors only.

156. Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez did not have permission to enter or remain on St. Luke's Boise property because they were not seeking medical care or treatment and were not authorized visitors.

157. Defendants Bundy and Rodriguez interfered with hospital staff and patients, blocked public access to the hospital, and disrupted hospital operations.

158. Defendants Bundy's and Rodriguez's presence at St. Luke's Boise property interfered with St. Luke's ability to provide medical care to patients and conduct its business.

159. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Bundy's and Rodriguez's actions, Plaintiff St. Luke's has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT VI
(UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES—ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST DEFENDANTS
BUNDY, RODRIGUEZ, AND FMP)

160. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.

161. Defendants engage in political activism, the marketing of the personal brands of Bundy and Rodriguez, and related business activities for financial gain.

162. On information and belief, Ammon Bundy is in the business of generating revenue for himself, his political campaign, the PRN, and other businesses he owns, such as Abish-Husbandi, Inc., by marketing his personal brand as a political activist and leader to garner donations, revenues, and fees.

163. On information and belief, Rodriguez generates revenue for himself and his businesses through his personal brand, his political activism, the FM PAC, FMP, sale of his self-published books, speaking engagements, and provision of marketing services to the Bundy for Governor Campaign.

164. On information and belief, FMP owns and operates freedomman.org. FMP generates revenue for Rodriguez through traffic to the site and by serving as a marketing vehicle for Rodriguez's business ventures.

165. SLHS and SLRMC are not-for-profit companies which provide medical services in Idaho.

166. Mr. Roth is the CEO and President of SLHS.

167. Dr. Erickson is a physician employed by SLRMC.

168. In the conduct of trade or commerce and in seeking revenue for themselves, Bundy, Rodriguez, and FMP engaged in methods, acts, and practices unlawful under Idaho Code title 48, chapter 6, including, but not limited to, falsely disparaging the business and professional reputation of the St. Luke's Parties.

169. Bundy, Rodriguez, and FMP knew, or in the exercise of due care should have known, that they engaged in unconscionable methods, acts, or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce, as provided in Idaho Code § 48-603C.

170. The actions and practices of Bundy, Rodriguez, and FMP are misleading, false, or deceptive.

171. Bundy's, Rodriguez's, and FMP's conduct and pattern of conduct are outrageous and offensive to the public conscience.

172. As a direct result of these wrongful acts and practices, the St. Luke's Parties have been damaged more than \$10,000.00, in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT VII
(IDAHO CHARITABLE SOLICITATION ACT—ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST
DEFENDANTS RODRIGUEZ AND FMP)

173. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.

174. Defendants Rodriguez and FMP engaged in the solicitation of charitable contributions to the "Save [REDACTED] from Medical Kidnapping" campaign. [https://givesendgo.com/\[REDACTED\]](https://givesendgo.com/[REDACTED]).

175. Defendant Rodriguez and FMP planned, conducted, and executed solicitations for charitable contributions by utilizing unfair, false, deceptive, misleading, or unconscionable acts and practices.

176. In soliciting for charitable contributions, Rodriguez and FMP engaged in methods, acts, and practices unlawful under Idaho Code title 48, chapter 12, including, but not limited to, falsely disparaging the business and professional reputation of the St. Luke's Parties, manufacturing a false conspiracy of kidnapping, trafficking, and killing of children involving the St. Luke's Parties, and falsely representing the amount of liability incurred relating to medical expenses associated with treatment of the Infant.

177. SLHS and SLRMC are not-for-profit companies which provide medical services in Idaho that were disparaged as part of the charitable solicitation.

178. Mr. Roth is the CEO and President of SLHS who was disparaged and part of the charitable solicitation.

179. Dr. Erickson is a physician employed by SLRMC who was disparaged as part of the charitable solicitation.

180. Rodriguez and FMP knew, or in the exercise of due care should have known, that they engaged in unconscionable methods, acts, or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce, as provided in Idaho Code § 48-603C, standards incorporated into the Idaho Charitable Solicitations Act.

181. The actions and practices of Rodriguez and FMP relating to the solicitation of the charitable contributions were and continue to be misleading, false, or deceptive.

182. Rodriguez's and FMP's conduct and pattern of conduct are outrageous and offensive to the public conscience.

183. As a direct result of these wrongful acts, Rodriguez and FMP caused more than \$110,000 to be donated wrongfully.

184. As a direct result of these wrongful acts and practices, the St. Luke's Parties have been damaged owing to the false and defamatory statements to generate donations.

185. As a direct result of these wrongful acts and practices, the public has been misled.

186. Rodriguez and FMP should be assessed damages, in an amount proven at trial pursuant to the purpose of the Idaho Charitable Solicitations Act.

**COUNT VIII
(CIVIL CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT DEFAMATION, INVASION OF PRIVACY,
INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, TRESPASS, UNFAIR
BUSINESS PRACTICES, AND WRONGFUL CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS—ALL
PLAINTIFFS AGAINST DEFENDANTS)**

187. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

188. Defendants each willfully, intentionally, and knowingly agreed and conspired with each other to publish false, misleading, and defamatory statements about Plaintiffs directed to third parties, as described above.

189. Defendants Rodriguez and Bundy further agreed and conspired to unlawfully trespass on Plaintiff St. Luke's property.

190. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Defendants defamed all Plaintiffs, invaded the privacy of Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Mr. Roth and Dr. Erickson, unlawfully trespassed onto Plaintiff St. Luke's property, committed unfair trade practices against all Plaintiffs, and defamed all Plaintiffs in furtherance of a conspiracy to violate the Idaho Charitable Solicitation Act.

191. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

192. By virtue of the formation and operation of this conspiracy, Defendants, as participants in the conspiracy, are liable as joint tortfeasors for each other's misconduct.

REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Idaho Rule of Civil Procedure 38, Plaintiffs hereby request trial by jury as to all issues that are properly so tried.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Counterclaimants respectfully request the following relief from this Court:

A. An award to St. Luke's Parties for damages in the sum to be proven at trial but in no event less than \$50,000;

B. Injunctive relief requiring the Defendants to cease posting and disseminating defamatory statements against the St. Luke's Parties;

C. An award to the St. Luke's Parties of their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs for this matter under Idaho Code §§ 12-120(3), 12-121, or other applicable authorities and statutes;
and

D. Provide such other relief as the Court determines fair, just, and appropriate under the circumstances.

