

Erik F. Stidham (ISB #5483)
HOLLAND & HART LLP
800 W. Main Street, Suite 1750
Boise, ID 83702-5974
Telephone: 208.342.5000
Facsimile: 208.343.8869
E-mail: efstidham@hollandhart.com

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;
NATASHA D. ERICKSON, MD, an
individual; and TRACY W. JUNGMAN, NP,
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. CV01-22-06789

**DECLARATION OF CHRIS ROTH IN
SUPPORT OF MOTIONS FOR LEAVE
TO AMEND COMPLAINT TO ALLEGE
PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

REDACTED

I, Chris Roth, declare and state as follows:

1. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge.

2. I am a plaintiff in this lawsuit against Ammon Bundy, Ammon Bundy for Governor, Diego Rodriguez, Freedom Man Press LLC, Freedom Man PAC, and the People's Rights Network (collectively "Defendants").

3. I am the President and CEO of St. Luke's Health System, LTD ("St. Luke's"), an Idaho-based, not-for-profit, regional health system with over 14,000 employees.

4. I am not a doctor, and I do not have a medical degree. My job is to organize and administer the hospital network. I do not make individual patient care decisions. As an employee of St. Luke's, I am not an agent or employee of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare ("DHW") or any other government entity.

5. The mission of St. Luke's is to improve the health of people in the communities we serve. As a not-for-profit health system, St. Luke's is dedicated to providing quality care to every person who comes through our doors. In its 2021 fiscal year, St. Luke's served more than 576,000 unique patients in over 4.2 million patient encounters.

6. On March 12, 2022, I first became aware of a controversy about the admission of a ten-month-old infant (the "Infant") to St. Luke's. I now understand that on March 11, 2022, the Meridian police declared the Infant at risk of imminent harm, found the Infant, and transported the Infant to a St. Luke's hospital in Meridian ("St. Luke's Meridian"). I understand that eventually the Infant was admitted to St. Luke's hospital in Boise.

7. The issues relating to the custody of the Infant were handled by DHW and the judicial processes that apply in these cases. To the best of my understanding, when DHW intervenes on behalf of a child who needs medical care, DHW, subject to the judicial processes, determines whether the parents or guardians retain custody of the child.

8. Consistent with its mission to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve, St. Luke's provides medical care to everyone who comes in, including minor children brought in by DHW or law enforcement. When a child is brought in by DHW or law enforcement, St. Luke's does not determine who has custody of a child or when the child can be released to the parents; those determinations are made by DHW or a judge. St. Luke's just treats the child and provides information to DHW consistent with legal requirements.

9. St. Luke's provides medical treatment to those who come through its doors regardless of whether those patients are insured or are able to pay.

10. St. Luke's does not receive any compensation from some of the patients it treats and does not receive payment sufficient to cover the cost of care for many of the patients it or its providers treat. When people come to St. Luke's, the health care providers focus, first and foremost, on providing the proper care and treatment, without regard to ability to pay.

11. While St. Luke's is a non-profit organization, it must operate in an economically efficient way in order to fulfill its mission. It needs to provide its services and collect revenue for those services in a way that is financially viable. St. Luke's needs to cover the costs of providing the services, invest in capital expenditures to improve care, generate sufficient funds to reinvest in the community, and expand and adapt to fulfill its mission to a rapidly increasing population. In turn, when the Defendants in this lawsuit caused St. Luke's to suffer negative financial impacts, the losses and costs were as real and as impactful to St. Luke's as the losses and costs would be for any for-profit business, with consequences impacting the community it serves rather than owners or shareholders.

12. Defendants falsely stated that I played some role in the determinations relating to the Infant. I had no contact with the police or DHW or the courts about the Infant at any time. I played no role in any determinations made by DHW or the court relating to the Infant.

13. My understanding is that St. Luke's discharged the Infant on March 15, 2022. I took no part in the decisions to admit, treat, or discharge the Infant.

14. St. Luke's has an emergency response process when dealing with emergency situations called incident command. Given Defendants' actions, I understand that St. Luke's Boise Medical Center ("St. Luke's Boise") implemented incident command on Saturday, March 12, 2022. I also directed incident command from the system level. This involved approximately twelve hours on March 12, 2022, in which incident command responded to ongoing reports monitoring the protests instigated by Ammon Bundy, Diego Rodriguez, and the other Defendants. We continued incident command for approximately two weeks because we could not be certain—even after the Infant had been discharged from St. Luke's—that our employees and patients were safe. If, for instance, law enforcement or CPS brought the Infant back to St. Luke's, we needed to be ready to respond to the armed mob again.

15. For the leadership team in Boise, it was "all hands on deck," as dealing with the disruption and threats caused by the Defendants was all consuming. It was as if we were running a hospital while under attack. We needed to deal with crowds of the Defendants' followers menacing our employees and patients with intimidating behavior and verbal threats. Our phone lines were being overloaded with disruptive, foul messages, including death threats. Some of the Defendants' followers who were entering the hospital posing as patients or visitors needed to be removed from the building. And, perhaps most concerning, we were hearing from our security

team and law enforcement significant concerns that the armed mob might storm the hospital and attempt to take the Infant by force.

16. I understand that the website www.freedomman.org has made a number of false and defamatory statements about St. Luke's, including, but not limited to, that: (a) the Infant "was being neglected by the hospital!"; (b) St. Luke's "gleefully participate[s] in the Child Trafficking Network known as CPS by taking children into their hospital to receive never-ending streams of payments from Medicaid and other government sources in order to give faulty and unreliable information to the 'family courts' in order to keep children away from their parents"; (c) "St. Luke's is probably the number one accomplice in this Child Trafficking system—and they profit as much as anyone from the system"; (d) "The story and actions of all bad actors, including police officers, politicians, St. Luke's hospital, nurses, doctors, the prosecutor, the judge, and other bureaucrats have been so egregious, tyrannical, and demonstratively ILLEGAL, that the story has made national and even international news, and has been featured by news outlets all over the country—with some believing that this is now the highest profile CPS kidnapping case in American history"; (e) "St. Luke's is HARMING [Infant] . . . I REPEAT—ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL IS HARMING [Infant]!!!"; (f) "THE HOSPITAL IS DOING GREAT HARM TO [Infant]!!!"; (g) "These moronic imbeciles at the hospital aren't taking care of [Infant]"; (h) Infant's "health is deteriorating BECAUSE OF [St. Luke's]"; (i) Infant "is being neglected by the hospital!"; (j) "St. Luke's has demonstrated itself to be unhelpful, tyrannical, and in many ways incompetent"; (k) "[E]verything CPS, the police, and St. Luke's did to [Infant] was detrimental and harmful to his health. And that is empirical and not just my opinion."

17. All of these statements are false. Contrary to the false narrative manufactured by the Defendants in this case, St. Luke's is not part of a child trafficking ring. St. Luke's did not

kidnap or traffic or abuse the Infant, as Ammon Bundy, Diego Rodriguez, and the other Defendants have stated and insinuated. The hospital treated the Infant as it would any other child brought to it for care. As detailed in the medical records provided to the Infant's father, the Infant was well cared for and had been admitted to the hospital on March 12, 2022 due to [REDACTED].

18. I understand that the website www.peoplesrights.org accused me of being a criminal accessory to child abduction. This is false. The Infant was not abducted. The Infant was taken into custody by police and state authorities through legal means. Further, I played no role and took no action relating to the child being taken into custody. I have not spoken to any law enforcement, DHW employee, or judiciary officer about the Infant. I have not harbored or protected any person who committed a felony relating to the Infant.

19. The false accusations of being a criminal accessory to child abduction on the www.peoplesrights.org website caused and continue to cause reputational harm to St. Luke's and me. False statements that the CEO of St. Luke's is engaging in the criminal abduction and harm to children seek to impair my ability to lead the organization and work in the community on behalf of St. Luke's. This is especially the case given that caring for the health of children in the communities we serve is a core part of St. Luke's mission.

20. Further, the false statements regarding me are intended to damage St. Luke's as an institution. A false statement regarding the CEO necessarily indicates the institution is involved in criminal activity.

21. I am being targeted for harassment. The false accusations on www.peoplesrights.org clearly are made to intimidate me and seek to cause emotional distress to me and my family.

22. The false statements have caused me to be concerned about the impact the harassment will have on the institution that I lead and cause me concern regarding the safety of my colleagues and my family.

23. Because of the defamatory statements and actions by the Defendants in the lawsuit, I have taken steps to protect my family from harm. Those steps include, but are not limited to, increasing security measures for my household. I have spent in excess of \$3,000 on security for my home since Defendants began their campaign of harassment in March 2022. I incurred those costs because of the Defendants' actions. I am concerned that Defendants' false statements will incite their followers to some act of violence against me or my family. I also consulted with law enforcement about how best to protect my family and monitor the situation.

24. St. Luke's has had to take steps to protect its providers and other medical staff. For instance, all profiles of the pediatrics team (20 individuals) were removed from the St. Luke's website shortly after the lockdown, a measure I believe we have been forced to take in reaction to the armed protests in March, instigated and incited by Defendants.

25. There have also been significant disruptions to, and burden placed on, St. Luke's business due to Defendants' protests and false statements. In turn, St. Luke's has experienced significant negative impact. The protests diverted many staff and executives from their job responsibilities to dealing with the security threat, prevented patients from seeking or obtaining care, and intimidated and distracted the hospital providers and staff who should be able to focus on their purpose of providing the highest quality care to those who come to them. St. Luke's Boise had costs that were wasted because it had to divert its resources to dealing with the disruptions caused by the physical threat to its patients and staff and telephonic threats. The disruptions are not limited to the hours during which the hospital was on lock down. During the

several days in question, the hospital's operations were repeatedly disrupted. It costs a great deal of money to operate our hospital system. To provide a frame of reference, I understand that the estimated average hourly cost of operating our system is about \$320,000. Further, the disruptions imposed human costs. Many St. Luke's staff members reasonably feel their safety is threatened and question their willingness to continue serving in their roles.

26. Defendants' false statements have caused confusion to the public about St. Luke's mission and the care it provides the community. Due to Defendants' false statements, St. Luke's has had to expend resources on public relations support to mitigate damages relating to the misconceptions about St. Luke's that Defendants have caused. In addition to the financial impact to St. Luke's, Defendants' defamation may put people at risk. For example, parents may not seek needed care for their children if they somehow believe Defendants' lies that St. Luke's secretly vaccinates children and engages in child trafficking. Defendants' wrongful conduct and the false statements will have long-term effects on St. Luke's and its mission.

27. In the 32 years of my career in healthcare, I never imagined that a non-profit hospital could or would be attacked the way Defendants have done—using armed threats, intimidation, doxing, and a campaign of falsehoods to disrupt the hospital's ability to provide medical help to the community it serves. I respect the right of community members to peacefully demonstrate, but the events in March were not peaceful demonstrations. They were armed protests that put the safety of everyone in St. Luke's Boise at risk. I believe it is important that St. Luke's stands up to the bullying, intimidation, disruption, and self-serving and menacing actions of the Defendants, for the protection of St. Luke's employees and patients, and to ensure St. Luke's ability to serve the community. Inaction would signal that this type of behavior is acceptable in our community. It is not.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Idaho that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 8th day of November, 2022.

/s/ Chris Roth

Chris Roth

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 5th day of December, 2022, I caused to be filed and served, via iCourt, a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the method indicated below, and addressed to the following:

Ammon Bundy for Governor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
P.O. Box 370	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
Emmett, ID 83617	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

Ammon Bundy for Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
c/o Ammon Bundy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
4615 Harvest Ln.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
Emmett, ID 83617-3601	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

Ammon Bundy	<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
4615 Harvest Ln.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
Emmett, ID 83617-3601	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

People's Rights Network	<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
c/o Ammon Bundy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
4615 Harvest Ln.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
Emmett, ID 83617-3601	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

People's Rights Network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
c/o Ammon Bundy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
P.O. Box 370	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
Emmett, ID 83617	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

Freedom Man Press LLC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
c/o Diego Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
1317 Edgewater Dr. #5077	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
Orlando, FL 32804	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

Freedom Man Press LLC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
c/o Diego Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
9169 W. State St., Ste. 3177	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
Boise, ID 83714	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

Freedom Man PAC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Mail
c/o Diego Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivered
1317 Edgewater Dr., #5077	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Mail
Orlando, FL 32804	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email/iCourt/eServe:

Diego Rodriguez
1317 Edgewater Dr., #5077
Orlando, FL 32804

- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivered
- Overnight Mail
- Email/iCourt/eServe:
freedommanpress@protonmail.com

/s/ Erik F. Stidham

Erik F. Stidham
OF HOLLAND & HART LLP

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