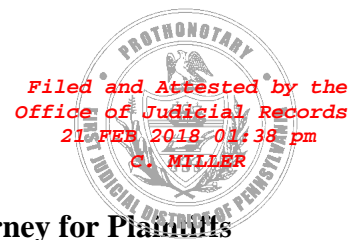


THE BEASLEY FIRM, LLC
BY: Dion Rassias, Esq.
ID No. 49724
1125 Walnut Street
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(215) 592-1000
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Attorney for Plaintiffs

BRIAN McCAFFERTY and MELISSA)	PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
McCAFFERTY, individually and on behalf)	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
of their minor child, C.M.)	
c/o Dion G. Rassias, Esquire)	
1125 Walnut Street)	
Philadelphia, PA 19107)	No.:
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
vs.)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
)	
NEWSWEEK MEDIA GROUP, LTD, t/a)	
NEWSWEEK, LLC and/or NEWSWEEK,)	
INC. and/or NEWSWEEK)	
7 Hanover Square, 5 th Floor)	
New York, NY 10004)	
)	
Defendant.)	

NOTICE TO DEFEND

"NOTICE"

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defense or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so, the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

Philadelphia Bar Association
LAWYER REFERRAL & INFO.
One Reading Center
Phila., PA 19107
(215) 238-1701

"AVISO"

Le han demandado a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las paginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) dias de plazo al partir de la fecha de la demanda y la notificacion. Hace falta asentar una comparencia escrita o en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objeciones a las demandas en contra de su persona. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, la corte tomara medidas y puede continuar la demanda en contra suya sin previo aviso o notificacion. Ademas, la corte puede decidir a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla con todas las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puede perder dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted.

LLEVE ESTA DEMANDA A UN ABOGADO INMEDIATAMENTE. SI NO TIENE ABOGADO O SI NO TIENE EL DINERO SUFICIENTE DE PAGAR TAL SERVICIO, VAYA EN PERSONA O LLAME POR TELEFONO A LA OFICINA CUYA DIRECCION SE ENCUENTRA ESCRITA ABAJO PARA AVERIGUAR DONDE SE PUEDE CONSEGUIR ASISTENCIA LEGA.

Asociacion de Licenciados de Filadelfia
Servicio de Referencia e Informacion
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INC. and/or NEWSWEEK)	
7 Hanover Square, 5 th Floor)	
New York, NY 10004)	
)	
Defendant.)	

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, Brian McCafferty and Melissa McCafferty, individually and on behalf of their minor child, C.M., by and through their attorney, Dion G. Rassias, Esquire, hereby demand compensatory and punitive damages against Defendant Newsweek Media Group, Ltd t/a Newsweek, LLC and/or Newsweek, Inc. and/or Newsweek in an amount substantially in excess of any applicable arbitration limits, exclusive of their demand for interest, costs and damages for pre- and post-judgment delay, and in support thereof, state and aver as follows:

I. THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiffs Brian McCafferty and Melissa McCafferty are adult individual residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with an address for service c/o Dion G. Rassias, Esquire,

1125 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Their minor son, C.M. is also one of the Plaintiffs in this action.

2. Defendant Newsweek Media Group, Ltd t/a Newsweek, LLC and/or Newsweek, Inc. and/or Newsweek (hereinafter collectively “Newsweek” or “Defendant”) publishes a weekly magazine known as *Newsweek*.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Defendant, either individually or through a network of distributors, regularly distributes its magazine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on a systematic and daily basis, and has done so for decades. The Defendant also sells its magazine in Philadelphia on a daily basis and has done so systematically and continuously for decades.

4. In addition, the Defendant also makes the online version of its stories, including the offending article identified more fully below, available in and throughout Philadelphia on a regular, systematic and continuous basis.

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

5. In its January 5, 2018 through January 12, 2018 magazine, the Defendant published an article called “Trump’s Mini-Mes.” A true and correct copy of the article, with the specific offending phrases highlighted in red and yellow, is attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

6. As set forth in the offending article, the Defendant characterizes C.M. as part of a “weird little army” of “mini-mes” that has been “weaponized” – by the “alt-right” and/or his parents – as part of a greater scheme to defend “racism and sexual abuse,” and, even more offensively, all under a picture of C.M.

7. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth, and the Defendant knew or should have known this.

8. Instead, the Defendant wrote, edited and/or published its offending article, with C.M.'s picture, touting that it is "repulsive" to feature children as potential spokespersons, claiming that the voices behind C.M. are "hiding" behind children as part of yet another sinister plot to weaponize children through the seduction of becoming "a celebrity."

9. In reality, it is *Newsweek* itself that is disgracefully "weaponizing" children, as the reckless article brands and punishes a child simply because he chooses to exercise a First Amendment right to be conservative.

10. In fact, one of *Newsweek*'s editors recently admitted that, "The sexual abuse of children will always exist. You can never eliminate it. Sometimes it leads to great art." Thus, *Newsweek* condones an editorial belief that pedophilia is potentially "great art," and now, this article deliberately weaponizes children to promote racism and sexual abuse, all for a desperate *Newsweek* to sell magazines.

11. The truth behind *Newsweek*'s sloppy, poor and sensationalist journalism reveals that *Newsweek* is doing to children exactly what it falsely claims others are doing, but to an unprecedented manner by improperly crying that C.M. has been "weaponized" by the alt-right to promote racism and sexual abuse.

12. According to *Newsweek*, no child has the right to organically develop a conservative point of view, and therefore, when conservatism rears its ugly head in grade school, it must be part of a bigger, sinister plot to exploit or hide behind children.

13. *Newsweek*'s motivation for such substandard journalism must be its declining and anemic sales and online hits.

14. The offending article directly and indirectly suggests that C.M.'s parents are scripting his words and actions, notwithstanding that they are protected First Amendment rights,

as part of a greater plot or evil motivation to disgustingly promote First Amendment expression in the defense of “raw racism and sexual abuse.”

15. To forever link C.M. and his parents to a scheme designed to defend racism and/or sexual abuse in any manner whatsoever is false, defamatory and outrageous, and no reasonable journalist or editor would ever have permitted such a reckless and malicious publication.

16. *Newsweek*, faced with anemic sales, a burgeoning federal investigation, and a forever dwindling readership, chose to sensationalize children in an effort to create interest in its struggling publication.

17. Shamefully, *Newsweek* simply could not accept the fact that there are children who are able to exercise their own freely cultivated ideas about government, and that they are not brainwashed by anyone and are capable of developing and reaching their own conclusions.

18. Instead, *Newsweek* takes the position that no child could possibly be a conservative of his or her own accord, and that to have established a conservative ideology at a young age means that the child must have been “weaponized,” manipulated and brainwashed by someone, beginning with his or her parents and ending with an alt-right promise of being a celebrity.

19. Then, to make these dubious conclusions much worse, *Newsweek* links C.M. – by his picture and by words – to condoning racism and sexual abuse, which is, of course, despicable beyond words.

20. In the ultimate disregard of the Plaintiffs’ rights, *Newsweek* never even tried to contact the parents, or C.M., to discuss their ridiculously offensive and false article.

21. *Newsweek* continues to publish the article to this day on its website.

22. As a result of the foregoing, the Plaintiffs have sustained harm, damages and injuries.

COUNT I – FALSE LIGHT
All Plaintiffs v. Defendant

23. The allegations of paragraphs 1-21 above are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

24. The offending article holds the Plaintiffs in false light in that:

- a. C.M. has never been deployed for anything by the alt-right;
- b. C.M. is not a part of a “weird little army” and never has been;
- c. C.M. has never been weaponized by anyone;
- d. C.M. has never defended raw racism or sexual abuse;
- e. C.M. has never been a spokesperson for the alt-right or anything even remotely related to racism or sexual abuse;
- f. C.M. has never read chapter and verse of a text written by anyone else;
- g. C.M. does not revel in a chance to “show off;”
- h. C.M. has never been promised any type of celebrity status for anything, no less the expression of protected First Amendment rights; and
- i. C.M. never authorized the use of his picture by the Defendant.

25. The offending article holds the parent-Plaintiffs in false light in that:

- a. They have never weaponized their child;
- b. They have never used their child or authorized their child to be a spokesperson for anything;
- c. They have never prepared a written text for their child for any political expression;
- d. They have never seduced their child with the promise of celebrity status for any reason;

- e. They have never authorized their child to be “deployed” by the alt-right;
- f. They have never permitted their child to be a part of any “little army,” weird or otherwise.
- g. They have never weaponized their child, nor have they permitted their child to be weaponized by anyone else; and
- h. They have never defended racism or sexual abuse in any fashion, individually or through their child.

26. The offending article was published and/or distributed by the Defendant.

27. It is evident that the offending publication at issue applies to the Plaintiffs, especially since C.M.’s picture previews the entire article.

28. *Newsweek* published an article that, as explained in detail above, created several false impressions, which culminated with a knowing or reckless portrayal of C.M. as a member of a weird little army that is used by the alt-right as a weapon to defend raw racism and sexual abuse. In so doing, the offending publication also has created the false impression that C.M.’s parents are directly or indirectly responsible for C.M.’s participation in events and organizations that he is not a participant in and does not condone.

29. *Newsweek* has therefore subjected all of the Plaintiffs to unreasonable and highly objectionable publicity, attributing to them characteristics, conduct and/or beliefs that are completely false. Therefore, C.M. and his parents have been placed before the public in an entirely false position.

30. The false light that the Defendant has put the Plaintiffs in is of a kind that would be highly offensive to any reasonable person, because of the false representation of their character, history, activities and beliefs, and that serious offense would obviously be taken by any reasonable person in each Plaintiff’s position. The offending article described above in detail unreasonably implies false and defamatory facts and associations which none of the

Plaintiffs have participated in or adhered to, which were completely exacerbated by the fact that the Defendant chose to publish C.M.'s picture as a headliner to the offensive article.

31. The conduct of the Defendant with respect to such false light reporting has served to disgrace the Plaintiffs. It is not "an opinion" that C.M. has been weaponized, is part of a weird little alt-right army, or defends raw racism or sexual abuse. It is further not an opinion to suggest that C.M. is reading chapter and verse from a text written by someone else or has been seduced with the promise of celebrity status. These are all facts which are wrong and which the Defendant never chose to investigate or research.

32. There is no possible innocent interpretation of the publication identified more fully above; it is a heinous, horrendous, demonstrably false and malicious message.

33. The offending article contains a series of lies and innuendo for which the Defendant must be held accountable. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's deliberate and/or reckless misconduct as set forth in detail above, the false light invasion of the Plaintiffs' privacy has caused mental suffering, anguish, shame and humiliation for the Plaintiffs, just as it would for any reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities who find their child under such a highly offensive, national attack.

34. Plaintiffs seek compensatory and punitive damages a result of the Defendant's outrageous conduct identified above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant in an amount in excess of the arbitration limits, together with costs of this litigation, delay damages, interest and any further relief this Honorable Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT II – DEFAMATION
All Plaintiffs v. Defendant

35. The allegations of paragraphs 1-33 above are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

36. The offending article is defamatory in that:

- a. C.M. has never been deployed for anything by the alt-right;
- b. C.M. is not a part of a “weird little army” and never has been;
- c. C.M. has never been weaponized by anyone;
- d. C.M. has never defended raw racism or sexual abuse;
- e. C.M. has never been a spokesperson for the alt-right or anything even remotely related to racism or sexual abuse;
- f. C.M. has never read chapter and verse of a text written by anyone else;
- g. C.M. does not revel in a chance to “show off;”
- h. C.M. has never been promised any type of celebrity status for anything, no less the expression of protected First Amendment rights; and
- i. C.M. never authorized the use of his picture by the Defendant.

37. The offending article is defamatory with regard to the parent-Plaintiffs in that:

- a. They have never weaponized their child;
- b. They have never used their child or authorized their child to be a spokesperson for anything;
- c. They have never prepared a written text for their child for any political expression;
- d. They have never seduced their child with the promise of celebrity status for any reason;
- e. They have never authorized their child to be “deployed” by the alt-right;
- f. They have never permitted their child to be a part of any “little army,” weird or otherwise.

- g. They have never weaponized their child, nor have they permitted their child to be weaponized by anyone else; and
- h. They have never defended racism or sexual abuse in any fashion, individually or through their child.

38. The offending article was published and/or distributed by the Defendant.

39. It is evident that the offending publication at issue applies to the Plaintiffs, especially since C.M.'s picture previews the entire article.

40. The offending article ascribes to the Plaintiffs certain conduct, character and/or conditions that adversely affect their reputations.

41. There is no innocent or justifiable, non-defamatory interpretation of this offending article.

42. There is no doubt that the effect of this offending article would cause great harm to the general reputation of the Plaintiffs and lower them in the estimation of their community in the minds of average readers.

43. At no time did the Defendant ever attempt to contact C.M. or C.M.'s parents but instead, bombastically published the falsities written above underneath a picture of C.M.

44. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct set forth at length above, the Plaintiffs have endured mental suffering, shame and humiliation, all as would obviously be perceived by any reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities whose child was labeled as a member of an alt-right, weird little army who is weaponized to defend raw racism and sexual abuse, based upon text written by somebody else, and seduced with the promise of becoming a celebrity.

45. Plaintiffs seek compensatory and punitive damages a result of the Defendant's outrageous conduct identified above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant in an amount in excess of the arbitration limits, together with costs of this litigation, delay damages, interest and any further relief this Honorable Court deems just and appropriate.

NOTICE OF PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

PLAINTIFFS HEREBY DEMAND AND REQUEST THAT DEFENDANTS TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF ALL DOCUMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, WHETHER ELECTRONIC OR OTHERWISE, ITEMS AND THINGS IN THE POSSESSION OR CONTROL OF ANY PARTY TO THIS ACTION, OR ANY ENTITY OVER WHICH ANY PARTY TO THIS ACTION HAS CONTROL, OR FROM WHOM ANY PARTY TO THIS ACTION HAS ACCESS TO, ANY DOCUMENTS, ITEMS, OR THINGS WHICH MAY IN ANY MANNER BE RELEVANT TO OR RELATE TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CAUSES OF ACTION AND/OR THE ALLEGATIONS OF THIS COMPLAINT.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs demand a jury trial.

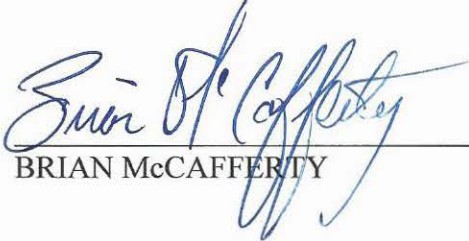
THE BEASLEY FIRM, LLC

BY: /s/ Dion G. Rassias
DION G. RASSIAS, ESQUIRE
Attorney I.D. No.: 49724
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(215) 592-1000
(215) 592-8360 (facsimile)

DATED: February 21, 2018

VERIFICATION

BRIAN McCAFFERTY, individually and on behalf of his minor child C.M., hereby verifies that the statements made in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief. The undersigned understands that the statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.


BRIAN McCAFFERTY

VERIFICATION

MELISSA McCAFFERTY, individually and on behalf of her minor child C.M., hereby verifies that the statements made in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of her knowledge, information and belief. The undersigned understands that the statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.


MELISSA McCAFFERTY

EXHIBIT "A"

Putin's American Sock Puppet / Biden's Last Chance

01.05.2018-01.12.2018

Newsweek®

Make Trump Great *(again)*

Steve
Bannon
says he
knows how
to **save**
America,
even if it
means
killing the
Republican
Party





JUST KIDDING Both [redacted], left, and Millie, seen here with prime-time Fox News host Laura Ingraham, have gone viral with videos in which they tout all things Trump.

a populist-nationalist super PAC: "One of the other reasons I like him is because, and this is my favorite reason: 'We will build a waaaaallll on our southern borders. And Mexico, no butts about it, Mexico will paaaay for the wall.'" Or [redacted] to Infowars's Alex Jones, last October: "By the way, I saw your interview with Megyn Kelly; you got her good. You got her good. She thought she was going to make a fool of you, but you turned it around, and you proved her to be a liar."

Both instances demonstrate how Trump supporters are recruiting children as spokespeople. Jones, once he got done digressing to his 12-year-old guest about Kelly's hotness, hailed [redacted] as part of the new wave of resistance to the "globalists"—a term the Anti-Defamation League considers an anti-Semitic dog whistle. "These kids are being weaponized," says Todd Gitlin, professor of journalism and sociology at Columbia University. He says the Millie and [redacted] interviews "camouflage" positions of the hard right "as feel-good sweetness and light, when, in fact, they are defending raw racism and sexual abuse."

Both Republicans and Democrats use kids for political purposes, Gitlin adds. Before the 2016 election, J.J. Holmes, a 12-year-old from Florida who suffers from cerebral palsy, preprogrammed his computerized speech device to chant "Dump Trump" and "Trump mocks the disabled" and then hit Play at a Trump rally in Tampa. (He was booed by the crowd, and he and his family were escorted

POLITICS

Trump's Mini-Mes

The alt-right deployed a 12-year-old Trump supporter to interview Roy Moore on the eve of the special Senate election. She's not the only kid in this weird little army

WATCH MILLIE MARCH OR [redacted] both of them 12, expound about their love of President Donald Trump and the platforms and candidates he endorses (most recently, Millie deployed to Alabama for a cute-if-it-weren't-so-contextually-creepy interview with Senate candidate Roy Moore), and you'll notice that they both speak like Trump. And like him, they seem very comfortable in front of the cameras. Here's Millie on Trump in a 2017 video interview with Jennifer Lawrence, vice president of the America First Project,

BY
GRAHAM LANKTREE
@g_lanktree

out.) Days later, J.J. gained even more media attention when he met President Barack Obama (thanks to the intervention of a reporter) at a campaign event in Kissimmee.

But there is a big difference, Gitlin says, between demonstrating at rallies and being held up as political pundits in videos intended to go viral. **"What I find repulsive is featuring children as spokespersons. That's hiding behind children."** The younger they are, "the more [likely] they're being made use of in a fashion that is unseemly."

Millie's big break came last February at the 2017 Conservative Political Action Conference, where the America First Project published the video of her talking about Trump's wall, his positions on illegal immigration and how she believes teachers unions control American education. The video has earned nearly 750,000 views.

Several former Breitbart News employees started the America First Project, which also organized Millie's interview with Moore. One of them, Patrick Howley, told *The Atlantic* early this year that he quit Breitbart because he believed it had gone mainstream after Steve Bannon left the organization to run the Trump campaign in August 2016. During the campaign, Bannon characterized Breitbart as a platform for the so-called alt-right, a loose-knit group of nationalists, white supremacists and conspiracy theorists. Infowars's Jones caters to the alt-right in his politics and screeds. Howley described the America First Project as an "advocacy organization that is going to advocate for Trump administration policies that generally fall under a populist-nationalist window."

In his interview with Millie, Moore supported sending America's military to the U.S.-Mexico border to stop illegal immigration. He has also spoken against homosexuality.

Recently, he said the last time America was "great" was during slavery, and he has advocated for doing away with constitutional amendments against the institution. Millie did not ask Moore about the sexual-assault accusations against him.

"The picture has been painted that Millie does not have the ability to think for herself or that somehow she was forced into going to Alabama," America First's Lawrence says in an email to *Newsweek*. "To believe that takes away from the amazingly talented little girl that Millie March is and the force she brings to the entire political movement." Millie did not respond to a request for an interview.

"She is better spoken and a better

interviewer than most people working for mainstream media outlets today," Lawrence adds. "We were contacted by Millie's father, Frank, about Millie wanting to go to Alabama to campaign for Judge Roy Moore—someone who she met in the past—following the allegations that were brought against him by attorney Gloria Allred."

Allred represents Beverly Young Nelson, who says Moore sexually assaulted her while he was a district attorney in his 30s and she was 16. A woman named Leigh Corfman accuses Moore of assaulting her when she was 14. Multiple other women have shared stories about how Moore pursued them when they were teens.

"Besides what you see in the video, Millie knocked on doors, phone-banked and attended church with Judge Moore and his family," Lawrence says, pointing out that *"alleged"* is the key word in the accusations against him.

Paul Begala, a longtime Democratic strategist, said Millie's interview with Moore is at best a case of very poor judgment by her handlers. "Words fail me," he said on CNN after the America First Project published the interview. "The fact that he's accused of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl and would sit down with a 12-year-old [girl], when he's not talking to any journalists..."

"These kids are reveling in the chance to show off," Gitlin says. "They're getting the chance to be little celebrities. **If a kid is...reading chapter and verse a text written by somebody else, and is circumventing grown-up questions, then I think that's bait-and-switch politics.**"

"There's a sinister quality to this. **Kids are being seduced with the promise of being celebrities.** In this case, the instigators are recruiting for a sort of boys' and girls' auxiliary, for what they believe to be a sacred crusade." ■

"What I find repulsive is featuring children as spokespersons. That's hiding behind children."



FROM LEFT: MARIA YOUNG; JEFF MALET/NEWS.COM