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2021-15938 / Court: 152

JANE DOE,

JANE DOE,

Plaintiff,

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

V.

JUDICIAL DISTRICT

BESHAUN WATSON

Defendant.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PEDITION

Plaintiff Jane Doe complains of Defendant Deshaun Watson, and for cause of action, would respectfully show this Court the following:

I. SUMMARY OF LAWSUIT

Defendant Deshaun Watson is a National Football League ("NFL") player who currently plays quarterback for the Houston Texans. Plaintiff owns and operates her bodywork and stretch therapy business. Watson asked for treatment from Plaintiff in October and November 2020. During the sessions, Watson assaulted and harassed Plaintiff by kissing her against her will, trying to force her to touch his penis and exposing himself to her. Watson's behavior is part of a disturbing pattern. Plaintiff brings this case seeking the minimal compensatory damages that implicate this Honorable Court's subject-matter jurisdiction, to prevent Watson from further like conduct.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff owns and operates her bodywork and stretch therapy business in Houston, Texas. She is a single mom who was trying to grow her brand and make some money for herself and child. She markets her business through Instagram and obtains clients in that manner. Prior to

meeting Watson, Plaintiff had been in the business for about six months. She never had any issues prior to experiencing Defendant's conduct.

Defendant Watson and Plaintiff first made contact on Instagram via direct message, wherein he expressed his interest in her services on October 19, 2020. Plaintiff routinely provides treatment out of her office in Houston, Texas. Plaintiff had never had any type of contact with Defendant Watson prior to this message. Plaintiff had never worked with any athletes from the Texans organization. Plaintiff found it somewhat peculiar that a NFL player would seek services from her, because she is not yet a well-known professional and it was her belief that a player like Watson likely had access to an entire team of trainers and the like. However, at the same time, because Plaintiff, like many small business people, had been actively trying to grow her business and expand her client based. Plaintiff thus was excited and encouraged that a professional football player would want to use her services. Plaintiff and Watson agreed to schedule a session, and the two began to discuss scheduling.

Prior to the scheduled session, Watson described what he was looking for. He told Plaintiff that he wanted sports therapy, which Plaintiff took to mean his quads and heels. Plaintiff indicated she understood Watson's requests.

A session was ultimately scheduled to take place at Plaintiff's office in Houston on October 19, 2020.

Watson met Plaintiff at her office. Watson undressed himself and covered his private area with a towel Watson was respectful at first, but that changed very quickly. After the session started, Watson started staring at Plaintiff in a provocative manner and told her not to raise the towel so high. Watson then began to pull the towel down in an attempt to expose himself to Plaintiff. Plaintiff was confused but she pulled the towel back up and continued the session. Shortly

after the session commenced, he told Plaintiff to work on his inner thighs. Plaintiff responded stating that she did not do that kind of work. He kept insisting that his inner thighs hurt, so Plaintiff obliged. After a short while, Plaintiff told Watson to turn on his back so she could move on, but Watson declined, he said that he wanted her to keep working on that area. Plaintiff worked on the area for five more minutes before Watson agreed to turn over. She worked on the rest of his body and lower back, and he left. Plaintiff thought the whole exchange with Watson was strange but gave Watson the benefit of the doubt.

Watson reached out to Plaintiff for second session via text around November 2, 2020. Plaintiff confirmed availability and Watson arrived to Plaintiff's office for the session. Upon arrival, Watson, without any notice, kissed Plaintiff. Plaintiff was shocked by his behavior and pulled back quickly. Plaintiff left the office, and went to her friend's store, which was adjacent to hers. Plaintiff told her friend what had just transpired. Plaintiff was terrified and sweating profusely. Once she regained her composure, she returned to her office where Watson had already gotten undressed and exposed himself. Plaintiff cautioned him that his behavior was not in line with her business practices, but Watson stated that he was more comfortable when he was "free." Plaintiff started to get uncomfortable but again, she still wanted to give Watson the benefit of the doubt and she needed the business and the money as a single mom. Watson then got more specific and asked Plaintiff to work on his buttocks and penis area. Plaintiff declined this request because it was odd. Watson would also move his body in a way that would cause his penis to touch Plaintiff's hand. Watson got irritated and told her that he would pay extra to have Plaintiff work on those areas. Plaintiff declined again. Watson then asked again saying "well can you do it just for me?" Plaintiff declined again and Watson got upset and left her office.

Some weeks later, Watson reached out to Plaintiff asking if she was available. Plaintiff told Watson that she would not work for him.

The NFL is notorious for a culture that fosters sexual harassment and sexual assault. Despite its lip service and a strong ad campaign to the contrary, many of its players have been accused of committing heinous sexual crimes against women. The NFL is no stranger to scandal, certainly when it comes to offenses against women.

Although Plaintiff seeks minimal compensatory damages, it is to be noted that Plaintiff has suffered mental anguish as a result of Watson's behavior. Plaintiff has not been able to move on from these experiences. She thinks about it all the time and continues to feel degraded.

Plaintiff brings this case for the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Honorable Court, to raise awareness, and to prevent Deshaun Watson and those like him from engaging in further conduct with other future victims.

III. <u>DISCOVERY PLAN</u>

Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery under Level 2 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

IV. PARTIES

Plaintiff Jane Doe is an individual residing in Texas

Defendant Deshaun Watson is an individual residing in Texas. Defendant may be served at his home address at or wherever he may be found.

V. <u>VENUE AND JURISDICTION</u>

Venue and jurisdiction are proper. The relief requested is within the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court. This is not a case about money. Pursuant to the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, venue is proper in Harris County, Texas. This is the county where Defendant

resides and the acts, events, transactions and omissions made the basis of this lawsuit occurred in whole or in part in Harris County, Texas.

VI. <u>CAUSES OF ACTION</u>

A. CIVIL ASSAULT

Plaintiff re-alleges each aforementioned allegation as if fully incorporated below.

Defendant Watson committed civil assault on Plaintiff. Specifically, Watson intentionally or knowingly caused physical contact with Plaintiff when Watson knew, a should have reasonably known, that Plaintiff would regard such contact as offensive. As a proximate result of the assault, Plaintiff has suffered damages as described herein. Plaintiff's harm arises as a result of conduct that violates several sections of the Texas Penal Code, including

- (1) Section 22.01(a)(3), Penal Code (assault);
- (2) Section 22.012, Penal Code (indecent assault); and
- (3) Section 42.07, Penal Code (harassment).

Thus, in addition to actual damages, Plaintiff seeks punitive damages, and such damages are not subject to capping.

B. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

Plaintiff re-alleges each aforementioned allegation as if fully incorporated below.

Watson engaged in conduct to Plaintiff that is extreme and outrageous so as to exceed the bounds of decency in a civilized society, namely, he caused Plaintiff to experience mental suffering by kissing her against her will, trying to coerce her to work on his penis and buttocks, and exposing his penis to her.

Watson engaged in this conduct intentionally, knowingly, and willfully.

Watson's conduct proximately caused injury to Plaintiff. Plaintiff has sustained and will sustain pain and suffering and psychological and emotional distress, mental anguish, embarrassment, and humiliation.

Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to recovery against defendants for the damages proximately caused by Defendant Watson's conduct in an amount to be determined at trial Further, because Plaintiff's harm arises as a result of conduct that violates several sections of the Texas Penal Code, including:

- (1) Section 22.01(a)(3), Penal Code (assault);
- (2) Section 22.012, Penal Code (indecent assault); and
- (3) Section 42.07, Penal Code (harassment).

Thus, in addition to actual damages, Plaintiff seeks punitive damages, and such damages are not subject to capping.

VII. <u>DAMAGES</u>

As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions described above, Plaintiff has incurred the following damages:

- a. Conscious physical and mental pain and suffering, and anguish, past and future;
- b. Physical impairment, past and future;
- c. Loss of enjoyment of life and peace of mind, past and future;
- d. Reasonable and necessary medical, counseling, psychiatric, therapeutic and related expenses, past and future;
- e. Loss of earnings and earning capacity; and
- f. Such other damages that will be shown at trial.

Plaintiff seeks any and all damages to which she may be entitled. As stated, Plaintiff also seeks exemplary damages to deter such conduct going forward, and to make an example of this Defendant.

VIII. NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE DISCOVERY AT TRIAL

Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 193.7, Plaintiff hereby gives notice that she intends to use all discovery instruments produced in this case at trial. Such discovery instruments include, but are not limited to, all documents Defendant will produce, or has produced, in response to Plaintiff's written discovery requests.

IX. REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff made a good faith effort to resolve this matter prior to the filing of this lawsuit.

Plaintiff respectfully demands a jury trial and hereby tenders the appropriate fee.

X. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

Plaintiff hereby requests and demands that Defendant Watson preserve and maintain all evidence pertaining to any claim or defense related to the incident made the basis of this lawsuit, including but not limited to communications, electronic data, mapping data, and location data.

XI. PRAYER

By reason of all the above and foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendant Watson the damages set forth in this petition, within the jurisdictional limits of this Court. Plaintiff also seeks pre-and post-judgment interest at the maximum legal rate, costs of court, punitive damages, and any other relief to which Plaintiff may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BUZBEE LAW FIRM

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