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 8 CLAUDIO PALMIERI aka ETHAN KATH  
 9 and CRYSTAL CASTLES

10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
 11 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

13 CLAUDIO PALMIERI aka ETHAN KATH,  
 14 an individual, and CRYSTAL CASTLES, an  
 15 Ontario General Partnership,

16 Plaintiffs,

17 vs.

18 MARGARET OSBORN aka ALICE GLASS,  
 19 an individual, JUPITER KEYES, an  
 20 individual, and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

21 Defendants.

CASE NO. BC681889  
 [Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Dept. 31]

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN FURTHER  
 SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR  
 MANDATORY RELIEF FROM ORDER  
 GRANTING DEFENDANT'S SPECIAL  
 MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFFS'  
 COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO C.C.P.  
 § 425.16 AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL OF  
 ENTIRE ACTION**

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1 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

2 I. INTRODUCTION

3 Plaintiffs Claudio Palmieri (a/k/a Ethan Kath) and Crystal Castles brought this action for  
4 defamation and related claims based on false and damaging statements about Palmieri that  
5 defendant Margaret Osborn (a/k/a Alice Glass) posted on her website. In response to the  
6 Complaint—*before anything else had happened in the case*—Osborn filed a Special Motion to  
7 Strike Pursuant to C.C.P. § 425.16 (the “Motion to Strike”). Plaintiffs’ former counsel, Shane  
8 Bernard, missed the deadline to oppose the Motion to Strike. Then, when the Court granted  
9 additional time to file an opposition, he missed the deadline again. Eventually Mr. Bernard filed  
10 an untimely opposition that was not supported by any admissible evidence. As a result of Mr.  
11 Bernard’s many failures, the Court granted the Motion to Strike with prejudice.

12 Section 473(b) is a remedial statute that must be “applied liberally.” *Elston v. City of*  
13 *Turlock*, 38 Cal. 3d 227 (1985). The California Supreme Court has explained the purpose of the  
14 statute’s mandatory provision as “to alleviate the hardship on parties who *lose their day in court*  
15 *due solely to an inexcusable failure to act on the part of their attorneys.*” *Zamora v. Clayborn*  
16 *Contracting Grp., Inc.*, 28 Cal. 4th 249, 257 (2002) (emphasis in original) (internal quotations  
17 omitted). Even when the mandatory provision is inapplicable, courts have broad discretion to  
18 grant relief under the discretionary provision of § 473(b), which may offer relief from *any*  
19 “judgment, dismissal, order, or other proceeding.” *Id.* at 255-56 (quoting C.C.P. § 473(b)).  
20 “[B]ecause the law strongly favors trial and disposition on the merits, any doubts in applying  
21 section 473 *must* be resolved in favor of the party seeking relief from default.” *Minick v. City of*  
22 *Petaluma*, 3 Cal. App. 5th 15, 24 (2016) (emphasis added).

23 The circumstances here are precisely the type in which § 473(b) is meant to relieve  
24 innocent clients of the burden of their former attorney’s fault. The very first challenge to the  
25 Complaint, before any discovery had occurred, resulted in the complete dismissal of all claims  
26 with prejudice. Mr. Bernard’s conduct was not the result of some legal strategy that did not work  
27 out; as the record shows, he repeatedly failed to act on his clients’ behalf until their case was  
28 dismissed. Worse yet, Mr. Bernard left Plaintiffs completely in the dark as to what was

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1 happening, depriving them of an opportunity to seek new counsel before it was too late. In fact,  
2 Plaintiffs learned their case had been dismissed not from Mr. Bernard, but from Osborn's Twitter  
3 feed. As soon as Plaintiffs heard about the Order of Dismissal of Entire Action (the "Order of  
4 Dismissal") they retained new counsel, who immediately sought relief through this Motion.

5 Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant them relief from the Order  
6 of Dismissal—under either the mandatory or discretionary provision of § 473(b)—and allow this  
7 case to proceed. Plaintiffs have done nothing wrong. Granting them relief would not prejudice  
8 Osborn and would promote the State's strong policy of resolving disputes on the merits.

9 **II. ARGUMENT**

10 **A. Plaintiffs Have Satisfied the Requirements for Mandatory Relief**

11 Plaintiffs have satisfied the requirements for mandatory relief under § 473(b). (Mot. at  
12 8:8-9:7.) Osborn does not dispute that Plaintiffs' Motion is timely, supported by their former  
13 counsel's declaration of fault, and accompanied by the proposed filing (an Opposition to the  
14 Motion to Strike). See C.C.P. § 473(b); *Lorenz v. Comm. Acceptance Ins. Co.*, 40 Cal. App. 4th  
15 981, 989 (1995) (relief is mandatory when these requirements are met). Instead, she argues that  
16 the mandatory provision of § 473(b) does not apply here because "an order pursuant to CCP  
17 § 425.16 is not a dismissal as defined by § 473(b)." (Opp. at 1:17-19.) But Osborn's argument  
18 ignores the California Supreme Court's directive to interpret the mandatory provision broadly and  
19 relies on inapposite case law.

20 It is undisputed that § 473(b) applies not only to defaults, but also to dismissals that are  
21 "the procedural equivalents of defaults." *Bernasconi Comm. Real Estate v. St. Joseph's Reg'l*  
22 *Healthcare Sys.*, 57 Cal. App. 4th 1078, 1082 (1997) (§ 473(b) applies where "plaintiff's attorney  
23 has failed to oppose a dismissal motion"). In *Zamora*, 28 Cal. 4th at 257, the California Supreme  
24 Court described the Legislature's intent in adding the mandatory provision to § 473(b) as to  
25 relieve the burden on innocent clients who have lost their day in court because of their lawyers'  
26 conduct, *even if inexcusable*. The Court then directed that "the provisions of section 473 of the  
27 Code of Civil Procedure are to be liberally construed" to promote the "determination of actions on  
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1 their merits.” *Id.* at 256 (citation omitted).<sup>1</sup> The Court recently confirmed this broad  
2 interpretation of the statute’s purpose. *See Even Zohar Const. & Remodeling, Inc. v. Bellaire*  
3 *Townhouses, LLC*, 61 Cal. 4th 830, 839 (2015) (“The general underlying purpose of section  
4 473(b) is to promote the determination of actions on their merits.”).

5 Numerous lower courts have followed the California Supreme Court’s directive in *Zamora*  
6 and applied the mandatory provision of § 473(b) broadly. In *Younessi v. Woolf*, 244 Cal. App. 4th  
7 1137, 1141 (2016), for example, the court granted relief under the statute’s mandatory provision  
8 after counsel “fail[ed] to oppose . . . demurrers and timely file an amended complaint.” Not only  
9 did plaintiffs’ former counsel fail to oppose the demurrers and motions to strike, but then their  
10 new counsel failed to oppose an *ex parte* application to dismiss the action based on failure to  
11 timely file an amended complaint. *Id.* at 1141-42. In requesting relief under the mandatory  
12 provision of § 473(b), plaintiffs’ new counsel admitted in a sworn declaration that he was at fault  
13 for the dismissal because he “just assumed,” incorrectly, that plaintiffs had 30 days to file the  
14 amended complaint. *Id.* at 1142. The court ordered plaintiffs’ new counsel to pay defendants’  
15 legal fees and costs, but granted the innocent clients relief from the dismissal. *Id.* at 1148-49. *See*  
16 *also Rodriguez v. Brill*, 234 Cal. App. 4th 715, 725 (2015) (granting relief under mandatory  
17 provision from dismissal of action based on motion to strike complaint for failure to respond to  
18 discovery, explaining that phrase “any . . . dismissal” within the meaning of the statute includes “a  
19 judgment of dismissal that states the case is dismissed with prejudice”).

20 Similarly, in *SJP Limited Partnership v. City of Los Angeles*, 136 Cal. App. 4th 511, 514,  
21 520 (2006), the court granted relief under the mandatory provision of § 473(b) where the plaintiff  
22 failed to oppose a motion for judgment on the pleadings based on incorrect legal advice from its  
23 prior counsel regarding the applicability of an automatic stay. Based on the lawyer’s  
24 misinterpretation of the Bankruptcy Code, admitted in a sworn declaration, he failed to appear at a  
25 hearing because he did not believe the court could dismiss the action while his client was in  
26 bankruptcy. *Id.* at 515. The court found no evidence of “intentional misconduct” by the client; the

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> Osborn briefly discusses *Zamora* in her Opposition, but she does not address the Court’s  
directive to interpret the mandatory provision broadly. (Opp. at 4:15-23.)

1 dismissal was due to the lawyer's mistake, so mandatory relief was appropriate. *Id.* at 520.

2 Osborn argues against applying the mandatory provision based exclusively on cases  
3 involving summary judgment, not anti-SLAPP motions. (Opp. at 1:25-4:10.) Although  
4 similarities exist between an anti-SLAPP motion and a summary judgment motion, there are  
5 significant differences—differences which Osborn ignores.<sup>2</sup> An anti-SLAPP motion may be  
6 brought at the outset of a case, immediately after the complaint has been filed (as occurred here).  
7 A summary judgment motion, by contrast, often comes shortly before trial, or at least after all  
8 sides have had ample opportunity to gather evidence and develop their arguments. Thus, the  
9 procedural posture of a case involving an anti-SLAPP motion is more similar to that of a case  
10 involving a demurrer or motion for judgment on the pleadings.

11 Moreover, when opposing an anti-SLAPP motion, the non-movant has had little or no  
12 opportunity to take discovery. Accordingly, the non-movant must support its claims only with  
13 “some proof.” *College Hosp., Inc. v. Super. Ct.*, 8 Cal. 4th 704, 719 (1994). An anti-SLAPP  
14 motion, unlike a summary judgment motion, is *not* intended to resolve the dispute on the merits.  
15 *See Lam v. Ngo*, 91 Cal. App. 4th 832, 851 (2001) (“An anti-SLAPP suit motion is not a substitute  
16 for a . . . summary judgment motion.”).

17 This Court should follow the California Supreme Court's directive to apply the mandatory  
18 provision of § 473(b) broadly and the decisions granting relief from dismissal motions brought at  
19 the outset of a case. But even if the Court were to disagree, the cases that Osborn relies on are  
20 factually distinguishable from this case. *See In re Marriage of Hock & Gordon-Hock*, 80 Cal.  
21 App. 4th 1438, 1445 (2000) (cases are not dispositive where they are distinguishable on the facts).  
22 In *Urban Wildlands Group Inc. v. City of Los Angeles*, 10 Cal. App. 5th 993 (2017), the parties  
23 fully briefed the merits of the dispute on a full factual record. *Id.* at 995. Plaintiff stipulated that it  
24 would prepare and lodge the administrative record, but failed to do so. *Id.* The court, relying on  
25

26 <sup>2</sup> Osborn notes in passing that the “test applied to a SLAPP motion is similar to that of a motion  
27 for summary judgment, nonsuit or directed verdict.” (Opp. at 3:7-10 (quoting *Kyle v. Carmon*, 71  
28 Cal. App. 4th 901 (1999)).) She makes no effort to explain why dismissal based on an anti-  
SLAPP motion should be treated like summary judgment for purposes of applying the mandatory  
provision of § 473(b).

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1 *English v. IKON Business Solutions, Inc.*, 94 Cal. App. 4th 130 (2001), reversed the trial court's  
2 granting of relief under the mandatory provision because "[s]ummary judgments are neither  
3 defaults, nor default judgments, nor dismissals"; thus, mandatory relief was not available under  
4 the statute. 10 Cal. App. 5th at 998-1000.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, in *English*, 94 Cal. App. 4th at 133-34, the  
5 court declined to grant relief where an attorney made a strategic decision to request additional time  
6 for discovery rather than "to file a substantive opposition to the summary judgment motion."

7 Unlike *English*, where the lawyer made a *strategic decision* that did not work out for her  
8 client, here, it is clear that strategy was not guiding Mr. Bernard's conduct. There is no strategy in  
9 repeatedly failing to meet deadlines and submitting wholly inadequate evidence. Moreover, unlike  
10 *Urban Wildlands*, where the parties had the opportunity to (and did) fully brief the merits of the  
11 dispute, here, Plaintiffs were deprived of that opportunity because of Mr. Bernard's repeated  
12 failures at the outset of this case. Plaintiffs never truly had their day in court. See *Zamora*, 28  
13 Cal. 4th at 257.

14 For all of these reasons, this Court should apply the mandatory provision of § 473(b)  
15 broadly and grant Plaintiffs relief from the Order of Dismissal. Again, if there is any doubt about  
16 whether to apply the mandatory provision in these circumstances, such doubt *must* be resolved in  
17 favor of granting the requested relief. *Minick*, 3 Cal. App. 5th at 24.

18 **B. The Court Has Broad Discretion to Grant Relief Under Section 473(b)**

19 If the Court were to conclude that the mandatory provision of § 473(b) does not apply here,  
20 the Court should grant relief from the Order of Dismissal under the even broader discretionary  
21 provision of § 473(b). Where an attorney's conduct in representing his clients was so extremely  
22 negligent that it rose to the level of "positive misconduct," a court may grant relief under the  
23

24 <sup>3</sup> The *Urban Wildlands* court "disapproved" of an earlier decision in *Avila v. Chua*, 57 Cal. App.  
25 4th 860 (1997), a case in which mandatory relief was granted where a lawyer failed to timely file a  
26 response to summary judgment motions. As Justice Baker noted in his concurrence, to the extent  
27 that *Avila* was wrongly decided, the California Supreme Court should decide whether to  
28 "disapprove" it, not a different panel of the same court. *Urban Wildlands*, 10 Cal. App. 5th at  
1003 (Baker, J., concurring). The California Supreme Court has *not* addressed the question of  
whether mandatory relief under § 473(b) is ever available following an entry of summary  
judgment. It is not the case that *Urban Wildlands* "has eliminated the ambiguity of the statute's  
application" in the summary judgment context, as Osborn contends. (Opp. at 2:1-3.)

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1 statute's discretionary provision.<sup>4</sup> *Daley v. Cnty. of Butte*, 227 Cal. App. 2d 380, 391 (1964)  
2 (granting relief under § 473(b) where plaintiff's former counsel's neglect in failing to oppose a  
3 motion to dismiss for lack of prosecution "was inexcusable and extreme, amounting to positive  
4 misconduct," and representation was provided "only in a nominal and technical sense"). In  
5 *Buckert v. Briggs*, 15 Cal. App. 3d 296, 299 (1971), a trial took place and evidence was submitted  
6 in support of a cross-complaint against plaintiffs. Plaintiffs' counsel failed to show up. *Id.*  
7 Plaintiffs, upon learning of what had happened (and not having been informed by their former  
8 counsel), "solicited the services of another attorney" and, with the assistance of new counsel,  
9 obtained relief under § 473(b). The Court of Appeal, affirming the trial court's order, explained  
10 that "where the attorney's neglect is of that extreme degree amounting to positive misconduct, and  
11 the person seeking relief is relatively free from negligence," relief may be granted under the  
12 discretionary provision of section 473(b) even if the attorney's negligence was inexcusable. *Id.* at  
13 301. The former lawyer's "failure to advise plaintiffs of the date of trial constituted positive  
14 misconduct" such that relief was appropriate. *Id.* at 301-302.

15 Here, like in *Daley* and *Buckert*, Mr. Bernard kept his clients completely in the dark as to  
16 the disastrous occurrences—caused solely by him—in the litigation. Mr. Bernard repeatedly  
17 acted, and failed to act, with extreme negligence. Without limitation, Mr. Bernard:

- 18 • failed to file an opposition to the Motion to Strike by the initial deadline;
- 19 • failed to file an opposition by the extended deadline;
- 20 • failed to properly authenticate emails and other evidence to support the opposition;
- 21 • failed to have Palmieri sign a declaration under penalty of perjury; and
- 22 • failed to notify his clients of any of this.

23 (Bernard Decl. ¶ 3; Palmieri Decl. ¶¶ 2-3). It is difficult to imagine a situation involving more  
24 negligence by an attorney. Although Mr. Bernard appeared in person at a few hearings, he  
25 essentially abandoned his clients while his law firm was in a state of chaos. (See Bernard Decl.  
26

27 <sup>4</sup> This rule is "premised upon the concept the attorney's conduct, in effect, obliterates the existence  
28 of the attorney-client relationship and for this reason his negligence should not be imputed to the  
client." *Buckert*, 15 Cal. App. 3d at 301.

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1 ¶ 3(a) (explaining that his office was in the midst of restructuring, a partner was preparing for  
2 retirement, and another partner was on maternity leave).) Indeed, the record reveals that Plaintiffs  
3 were effectively unrepresented at a “critical juncture in the litigation.” See *Minick*, 3 Cal. App. 5th  
4 at 28 n.4. Under such circumstances, the Court has broad discretion to grant Plaintiffs relief from  
5 the Order of Dismissal that resulted from Mr. Bernard’s extremely negligent conduct. As the  
6 court explained in *Orange Empire National Bank v. Kirk*, 259 Cal. App. 2d 347, 353 (1968), “[a]n  
7 attorney’s authority to bind his client does not permit him to impair or destroy the client’s cause of  
8 action or defense.” Osborn does not address this argument, focusing instead on whether Mr.  
9 Bernard’s mistakes were “excusable.” (Opp. at 4:11-7:16.)

10 Finally, Osborn’s Opposition fails to demonstrate any prejudice precluding relief under  
11 § 473(b). The only *possible* prejudice to Osborn is a slight delay in the action and legal fees that  
12 she incurred related to the Order of Dismissal. Neither form of prejudice should preclude relief,  
13 especially because Mr. Bernard will be ordered to pay Osborn’s legal fees (in an amount to be  
14 determined) if relief is granted under § 473(b). *Shapiro v. Clark*, 164 Cal. App. 4th 1128, 1149  
15 (2008); *Daley*, 227 Cal. App. 2d at 396 (finding that “only tangible prejudice . . . could have been  
16 eliminated as a condition of granting relief”). Osborn does not (and cannot) contend otherwise.

17 **C. The Court Could Also Exercise Its Equitable Power to Grant Relief**

18 The Court also has inherent equitable power to grant any relief that it deems appropriate.  
19 (Mot. at 10 n.1.) Osborn does not address this point. Thus, there are numerous grounds on which  
20 the Court could base its decision to grant the requested relief: the mandatory or discretionary  
21 provisions of § 473(b), or the Court’s inherent equitable power.

22 **D. The Amended Opposition to Defendant’s Motion to Strike Defeats the Motion**  
23 **as a Matter of Law**

24 “Reasonable probability” of success on the merits for purposes of defeating an anti-SLAPP  
25 motion requires only a minimum level of legal sufficiency and triability. “Only a cause of action  
26 that lacks ‘even minimal merit’ constitutes a SLAPP.” *Overstock.com, Inc. v. Gradient Analytics,*  
27 *Inc.*, 151 Cal. App. 4th 688, 700 (2007). “A plaintiff is not required ‘to *prove* the specified claim  
28 to the trial court.’” *Mann v. Quality Old Time Serv., Inc.*, 120 Cal. App. 4th 90, 105 (2004)

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1 (emphasis in original) (citations omitted). “[T]he plaintiff need only have ‘stated and  
2 substantiated a legally sufficient claim.’” *Navellier v. Sletten*, 29 Cal. 4th 82, 88 (2002) (citations  
3 omitted).

4 “Precisely because the statute (1) permits early intervention in lawsuits alleging  
5 unmeritorious causes of action that implicate free speech concerns, and (2) limits opportunity to  
6 conduct discovery, the plaintiff’s burden of establishing a probability of prevailing is not high: We  
7 do not weigh credibility, nor do we evaluate the weight of the evidence. Instead, *we accept as*  
8 *true all evidence favorable to the plaintiff* and assess the defendant’s evidence only to determine  
9 if it defeats the plaintiff’s submission as a matter of law. *Overstock.com*, 151 Cal. App. 4th at  
10 699-700 (emphasis added); *accord Taus v. Loftus*, 40 Cal. 4th 683, 714 (2007).

11 Accepting as true all evidence favorable to Plaintiffs, the evidence presented in Plaintiffs’  
12 Amended Opposition to the Motion to Strike requires that it be denied as a matter of law. In this  
13 case, the decision is binary. There are no witnesses to the alleged sexual assault and abuse; nor  
14 has Osborn presented any corroboration of her allegations of abuse. Either Palmieri is telling the  
15 truth, or Osborn is telling the truth. For purposes of ruling on the Motion to Strike, the Court must  
16 accept as true all evidence favorable to Plaintiffs.

17 Palmieri has declared that the “allegations about me in the Statement are entirely false  
18 [and] I never sexually assaulted, drugged, or physically or emotionally abused [defendant] in any  
19 way.” (Palmieri Decl. ¶12). Since the court must accept these facts as true, Plaintiffs have  
20 “substantiated a legally sufficient claim” that Osborn’s Statement is false and defamatory.<sup>5</sup>  
21 Palmieri’s declaration that he never sexually assaulted, drugged or abused Osborn is alone  
22 sufficient to defeat the Motion to Strike as a matter of law. But Plaintiffs also have presented  
23 admissible written admissions by Osborn corroborating Palmieri’s declaration that their  
24 relationship was fully consensual.

25  
26 <sup>5</sup> *Cf. Comstock v. Aber*, 212 Cal. App. 4th 931, 948-950 (anti-SLAPP motion granted where  
27 plaintiff did *not* deny allegations of sexual assault: “Comstock does not specifically deny their  
28 truth, and certainly does not deny that he sexually assaulted Aber. Such a denial—which would  
have been easy to make under penalty of perjury, if true—cannot be reasonably inferred from  
Comstock’s vague statement.”)

1 Osborn argues that the proffered emails are inadmissible because Plaintiff “cannot  
2 authenticate emails allegedly written and sent by anyone other than himself.” (Opp. at 8:5-6.) She  
3 is incorrect. An “author’s testimony is not required to authenticate a document.” *People v.*  
4 *Valdez*, 201 Cal. App. 4th 1429, 1435 (2011) (citing Cal. Evid. Code § 1411). Nor is there any  
5 restriction on “the means by which a writing may be authenticated.” Cal. Evid. Code § 1414. A  
6 “writing may be authenticated by evidence that the writing was received in response to a  
7 communication sent to the person who is claimed by the proponent of the evidence to be the  
8 author of the writing.” *Id.* § 1420. And it “may be authenticated by evidence that the writing  
9 refers to or states matters that are unlikely to be known to anyone other than the person who is  
10 claimed by the proponent of the evidence to be the author of the writing.” *Id.* § 1421.

11 Palmieri was the recipient of personal email exchanges with Osborn. As he declared:

12 Attached hereto as **Exhibit C** are true and correct copies of emails that Margaret  
13 and I exchanged between 2008 and 2012. During our relationship, I would  
14 regularly correspond with Margaret via email. I have had an email address with  
15 Gmail since February 2008. Margaret has had a few email addresses, with Gmail  
16 and Hotmail, since I have known her. I kept all of these emails with Margaret in  
17 my Gmail account, which is where I retrieved the attached copies from.

18 (Palmieri Decl. ¶ 18.) The email addresses, time stamps and other indicia of authenticity, together  
19 with Palmieri’s sworn testimony, further establish that the emails are genuine and admissible at  
20 this stage of the proceedings. *See generally Andreas Carlsson Prods., AB v. Barnes*, No. CV 10-  
21 8396 CAS (CWx), 2012 WL 2366391 (C.D. Cal. 2012) (describing means by which email  
22 evidence may be authenticated, including self-authentication). Nothing more is required.

23 Notably, defendant does not deny that she wrote these emails.<sup>6</sup>

24 Osborn further argues that even if the emails are admissible, they are not probative because  
25 they do not address “the 2002 incident” when Palmieri allegedly “took advantage of her when she  
26 was not in a condition to give her consent (not to mention she was underage),” and do not negate  
27

28 <sup>6</sup> *Continental Baking Co. v. Katz*, 68 Cal. 2d 512, 526 (1968), relied on by Osborn, is off point. There, the trial court “simply took counsel’s word for it that he could have a witness lay the necessary foundation and that he, the attorney, had obtained the documents from the general counsel of Continental so that they were ‘business records under the liberal interpretation.’” No such second-hand hearsay authentication is relied on by Palmieri, who is the direct recipient of Osborn’s emails.


1 the abusive nature of their relationship. (Opp. at 9.)<sup>7</sup> However, the emails, diary and other  
2 documentary evidence proffered by Palmieri are indeed probative because they reflect consensual  
3 sex, love and affection, and, as such, tend to contradict Osborn's claims.

4 Finally, Osborn argues that the emails and other documentary evidence reflecting her  
5 relationship with Palmieri and her state of mind, do not establish that Osborn knew that her  
6 "statement was false when she published it." (Opp. at 8:5-6.) This argument misses the point that  
7 the evidence of her admissions corroborates Palmieri's testimony, but it is Palmieri's testimony as  
8 so corroborated that proves the falsity of Osborn's Statement and that she knew it was false.  
9 "Where, as here, the plaintiff is a limited public figure, he or she must prove by clear and  
10 convincing evidence that the allegedly defamatory statements were made with knowledge of their  
11 falsity or with reckless disregard of their truth or falsity." *Overstock*, 151 Cal. App. 4th at 700.  
12 Since the court must accept as true that Palmieri did not sexually assault, drug or physically or  
13 emotionally abuse Osborn at any time, that proof is absolute at this juncture. This is not a case  
14 where the alleged defamer has relied on third-party information she suspects may be false. Osborn  
15 was there. If these events did not occur, she knows they did not occur and she is lying.

16 **III. CONCLUSION**

17 Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court set aside the Order of Dismissal, consider  
18 Plaintiffs' Amended Opposition to the Motion to Strike, and rule on the merits of that motion.

19 DATED: May 9, 2018 KING, HOLMES, PATERNO & SORIANO, LLP

20  
21 By:   
22 HENRY D. GRADSTEIN  
23 MATTHEW J. CAVE  
24 Attorneys for Plaintiffs CLAUDIO PALMIERI aka  
25 ETHAN KATH and CRYSTAL CASTLES

26 <sup>7</sup> Counsel takes undue liberty with the facts in stating that Osborn was underage and implying  
27 statutory rape. Palmieri did not meet Osborn until late 2003 and he did not sexually assault or  
28 drug her then, or ever. (Palmieri Decl. ¶ 18). Defendant was 16, not 15, in 2003. Either way, the  
age of consent in Canada, where they both lived at the time, was 14 until it was raised to 16 in  
2008. (See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age\\_of\\_consent\\_reform\\_in\\_Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_consent_reform_in_Canada)).

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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age and **not a party to this action**. I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. My business address is 1900 Avenue of the Stars, Twenty-Fifth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90067-4506.

On May 9, 2018, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR MANDATORY RELIEF FROM ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S SPECIAL MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO C.C.P. § 425.16 AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL OF ENTIRE ACTION**

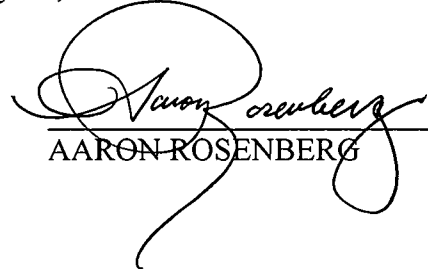
on the interested parties in this action as follows:

Vicki Greco, Esq.  
COLLINSON LAW, APC  
21515 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 800  
Torrance, CA 90503

**BY FEDEX:** I enclosed said document(s) in an envelope or package provided by FedEx and addressed to the persons at the addresses listed in the Service List. I placed the envelope or package for collection and overnight delivery at an office or a regularly utilized drop box of FedEx or delivered such document(s) to a courier or driver authorized by FedEx to receive documents.

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

Executed on May 9, 2018, at Los Angeles, California.

  
AARON ROSENBERG

05/10/2018