

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION**

BELCALIS MARLENIS ALMÁNZAR,

Plaintiff,

v.

LATASHA TRANSRINA KEBE a/k/a  
LATASHA TRANSRINA HOWARD and  
STARMARIE EBONY JONES,

Defendants.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Belcalis Marlenis Almánzar (“Plaintiff”) for her complaint against Defendants Latasha Transrina Kebe a/k/a Latasha Transrina Howard (“Kebe”) and Starmarie Ebony Jones (“Jones”) (collectively, “Defendants”) alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. This is a diversity action asserting Georgia state law claims for slander per se, slander, libel per se, defamation, and invasion of privacy – false light, as a result of Defendants’ publication of slanderous and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff that are false, harmful, and offensive to Plaintiff.

**PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of the State of New York.

3. Upon information and belief, Kebe is a citizen and resident of the State of Georgia, who resides at 3614 Janna Lane SW, Marietta, GA 30008.

4. Upon information and belief, Jones is a citizen and resident of the State of Georgia, who resides at 6701 Danforth Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 as this is an action between Plaintiff who is a citizen of the State of New York and Defendants Kebe and Jones, who upon information and belief are citizens of the State of Georgia, and the amount in controversy exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000).

6. Upon information and belief, Kebe is subject to personal jurisdiction in the State of Georgia as she resides in and/or is domiciled in Georgia. In addition, upon information and belief, Kebe owns, uses, or possesses real property within the State of Georgia, regularly transacts business as described below within the State of Georgia, and committed a tortious act within the State of Georgia, including the torts of invasion of privacy – false light.

7. Upon information and belief, Jones is subject to personal jurisdiction in the State of Georgia as she resides in and/or is domiciled in Georgia. In addition, upon information and belief, Jones owns, uses, or possesses real property within

the State of Georgia, regularly transacts business as described below within the State of Georgia, and committed a tortious act within the State of Georgia, including the torts of invasion of privacy – false light.

8. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Kebe and Jones are residents of this District and because upon information and belief the conduct complained of occurred in this District.

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

9. Plaintiff is a Grammy award-winning musical artist, songwriter, and television personality professionally known as “Cardi B.”

10. Since the release of her full-length debut mixtape in 2015, Plaintiff’s musical works have reached peak positions on charts in the United States and around the world. As a result of the popularity of her music, Plaintiff has millions of fans in the United States and around the world who follow her work and her social media profiles.

11. Plaintiff is also a mother of a young baby girl.

12. In addition to her artistic endeavors, Plaintiff is well known for her volunteer work and philanthropic endeavors, which include helping families affected by gang violence and performing volunteer work in handing out coats to underprivileged persons.

13. Upon information and belief, Jones is a natural person who claims to have known Plaintiff before her musical career.

14. Upon information and belief, Jones currently conducts business in the nature of promoting anti-aging products.

15. Upon information and belief, however, Jones' real aspiration is to have a career in the entertainment industry as an actress. Upon information and belief, in pursuit of this goal, Jones promotes herself and her entertainment endeavors through social media, where she has about ten thousand followers.

16. Upon information and belief, Jones regularly posts information regarding her endeavors in the entertainment industry in and around Atlanta.

17. Upon information and belief, Kebe produces, hosts, and publishes videos on YouTube entitled "unWinewithTashaK."

18. Upon information and belief, while Kebe calls her site "a celebrity gossip site," the real purpose of "unWinewithTashaK" is to provide a platform for Kebe to publish and spread malicious rumors, slanderous assertions, and false information about celebrities, including Plaintiff, for her personal financial gain.

19. Upon information and belief, Kebe does this to draw various celebrities' social media followers to her site, including Plaintiff's social media followers, so she can increase what she charges for advertising to third parties that advertise with her.

20. Upon information and belief, over the past year, Kebe targeted Plaintiff and began making degrading statements regarding Plaintiff.

21. Upon information and belief, while Plaintiff was pregnant, on or around April 13, 2018, Kebe published a video where Kebe stated that as a result of Plaintiff's actions, Plaintiff's then-unborn child may have intellectual disabilities.

22. Upon information and belief, in the past few months, Kebe has taken her vitriol one step further by making blatantly defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff.

23. Upon information and belief, Kebe has become obsessed with slandering Plaintiff. In the last 14 months, Kebe has put out at least twenty-three videos regarding Plaintiff.

24. Upon information and belief, as set forth below, Kebe's videos about Plaintiff attract substantially more viewers than most of her other videos, which is part of the reason she has repeatedly targeted Plaintiff.

25. Upon information and belief, to this end, Kebe has published in the past few months several videos with more false and defamatory statements about Plaintiff, who has become the target of Kebe's malicious campaign to damage and destroy Plaintiff's reputation among her fans and the consuming public.

26. Upon information and belief, on or around September 2, 2018, Kebe published a video entitled “Cardi B. DISRESPECTFUL Comedy Skit MOCKING Martin Luther Kings Extra Marital Affairs” (the “9/2 Video”).

27. The 9/2 Video contains at least one false and defamatory statement about Plaintiff.

28. The 9/2 Video contains the false, malicious, and defamatory statement that Plaintiff “prostituted for a living.” (9/2 Video at 5:50.)

29. Upon information and belief, Kebe published the 9/2 Video to tens of thousands of individuals without privilege or justification.

30. Upon information and belief, around that same time, on or around September 13, 2018, Jones published a video of herself to her Instagram followers making false, malicious, and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff through Instagram Live, which allows users to film live videos that can be watched either simultaneously by their followers or within 24 hours of their posting (the “Jones Video”).

31. The Jones Video contains multiple false and defamatory statements about Plaintiff.

32. In the Jones Video, Jones made the false, malicious, and defamatory statement that “[Plaintiff] got herpes.” (Jones Video at 9:38.)

33. In the Jones Video, Jones also made the false, malicious, and defamatory statement that Plaintiff took molly and cocaine. Specifically, she stated, “the more molly pills she would be takin, the more cocaine she would be takin.” (Jones Video at 14:24.)

34. In the Jones Video, Jones also falsely stated that Plaintiff was engaging in prostitution. Specifically, she stated, referring to Plaintiff, “I guess they were supposed to have sex, exchange sex for money.” (Jones Video at 15:50.)

35. Shortly after Jones released the Jones Video, on or around September 13, 2018, Jones also published written comments on her Instagram account to third parties that Plaintiff is “just a Grammy Nominated Prostitute, running around spreading her herpes” (the “Instagram Comment”).

36. Upon information and belief, continuing her campaign of slander, and to capitalize on Jones’ slander, on or around September 19, 2018, Kebe recorded and later published a video of herself interviewing Jones regarding the Jones Video on YouTube entitled “Exclusive: Cardi B’s Ex-FRIEND ALLEGES Cardi B. Kept A Huge Box filled with MONISTAT & REVEALS More!” (the “9/19 Video”).

37. Upon information and belief, Kebe knew that publishing a video regarding Plaintiff would draw substantially more viewers to her content than she typically garners.

38. Upon information and belief, the 9/19 Video, to date, has garnered over three million views. By way of comparison, upon information and belief, the last full-length video Kebe published prior to the 9/19 Video only garnered approximately 223,000 views.

39. Upon information and belief, only nine of her approximately 236 videos published prior to the 9/19 Video garnered over one million views.

40. The 9/19 Video contains multiple false and defamatory statements about Plaintiff.

41. The 9/19 Video contains the false, malicious, and defamatory statement that Plaintiff was a prostitute (0:40: “(Kebe) You said that Cardi B prostituted” “(Jones) Yes”).

42. The 9/19 Video contains the false, malicious, and defamatory statement that Plaintiff used cocaine and molly (0:40: “(Kebe) Was she a drug user?” “(Ms. Jones) Yes” “(Kebe) cocaine and molly to be specific” “(Jones) Yes”).

43. The 9/19 Video also contains the false, malicious, and defamatory statement that Plaintiff has herpes (0:48: “(Kebe) She has herpes?” “(Jones) Yes”).

44. The 9/19 Video contains the false, malicious, and defamatory statement that Plaintiff also had herpes outbreaks on her mouth in the past (17:25:



“(Kebe) So you were living with her at the time and she had herpes outbreaks on her mouth?” “(Jones) Yes”).

45. Upon information and belief, Kebe published the 9/19 Video to millions of individuals without privilege or justification.

46. None of the aforementioned statements about Plaintiff are true. Plaintiff was never a prostitute or a user of molly and cocaine. Plaintiff has never, and does not now, have herpes, nor has she had herpes outbreaks on her mouth.

47. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known that the aforementioned statements were false.

48. Upon information and belief, Defendants were subjectively aware of the probable falsity of the aforementioned statements at the time they published them.

49. Upon information and belief, by way of example, on a second YouTube channel operated by Kebe, Kebe posted a video that acknowledges that she was aware, prior to her publishing the 9/19 Video, that the defamatory statements made by Jones may not have been true.

50. Upon information and belief, Kebe further acknowledged and that she published the 9/19 Video a day earlier than she had planned to because information undermining Jones’ credibility was or was about to be published and Kebe wanted

the 9/19 Video to have an opportunity to trend (i.e., gain viewership) before people saw the information that would “debunk” Jones’ statements.

51. Upon information and belief, the aforementioned defamatory statements were made and published by Defendants with actual malice, i.e., with knowledge that the statements were false or with reckless disregard for the fact that they were false.

52. On or about September 19, 2018, shortly after Kebe published the 9/19 Video, Plaintiff, through her counsel, sent a cease and desist letter to Kebe that demanded immediate removal of the defamatory video.

53. Upon information and belief, two days after receiving the letter, which she posted on social media rather than take the video down or issuing a retraction and/or repudiation, Kebe published a second video that falsely proclaimed the statements made in the 9/19 Video were true.

54. Upon information and belief, on or around September 21, 2018, Kebe published a second video entitled “Actual PROOF Cardi B. Knew her Ex-Roommate, Drake, Funky Dineva vs Tamar, Beyonce Black Majic,” where she unequivocally stated that everything said in the 9/19 Video was true (the “9/21 Video”).

55. The 9/21 Video also continued Kebe’s campaign of defamation.

56. Upon information and belief, in the 9/21 Video, Kebe claims that “Everything that we said, that everything that [Jones] said was accurate” (9/21 Video at 2:11); that Kebe was “the source” (9/21 Video at 4:38).

57. Upon information and belief, Kebe even went so far as to falsely suggest that she was in possession of undisclosed facts that would support the prior statements when she further claimed that “[Jones] has shown me some stuff, I said, okay legit so I’m gonna go ahead and tell your story.” (9/21 Video at 8:12.)

58. Since then, Kebe has continued her campaign of defamation and harassment. Even as recently as January 25, 2019, Kebe Tweeted that Plaintiff had herpes. Specifically, Tweeting at Plaintiff, Kebe wrote that Plaintiff had a “confirmed irritated p\*\*\*y,” which she followed with “#HerpesB” (the “1/25 Tweet”).

59. Upon information and belief, the 1/25 Tweet was published to Kebe’s over six thousand followers.

60. Upon information and belief, shortly after it was posted, knowing it was not true, Kebe deleted the post. However, as set forth below, she has failed and refused to repudiate and take down the other instances of defamatory statements in the above-described videos.

61. The aforementioned defamatory statements published by Jones have caused Plaintiff to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.

62. The aforementioned defamatory statements distributed, published, and repeated by Kebe have caused Plaintiff to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.

63. The aforementioned defamatory statements published by Jones have also caused damage to Plaintiff's reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations.

64. The aforementioned defamatory statements distributed, published, and repeated by Kebe have also caused damage to Plaintiff's reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations.

65. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-5-12 and O.C.G.A. § 51-5-11(a), on February 28, 2019, Plaintiff sent demands for retraction and repudiation to Kebe and Jones demanding a retraction and repudiation of the aforementioned defamatory statements.

66. Despite due written demand and the passing of at least seven (7) days, Kebe and Jones have as of the date of filing of this Complaint failed and refused to retract and/or repudiate the aforementioned defamatory statements.

67. As of this day, neither Kebe, nor Jones, have issued any sort of retraction or repudiation of the defamatory statements.

## **COUNT I**

### **(Slander Per Se Against Defendants)**

68. Plaintiff repeats and realleges by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 67 as if fully set forth herein.

69. Upon information and belief, Kebe published the 9/2 Video on or around September 2, 2018.

70. Upon information and belief, Jones published the Jones Video in or around September 13, 2018.

71. Upon information and belief, Kebe published the 9/19 Video on or around September 19, 2018.

72. Upon information and belief, as set forth above, the 9/2 Video and 9/19 Videos published by Kebe contain multiple false and defamatory statements about Plaintiff, including that Plaintiff was a prostitute and a user of cocaine and molly, that Plaintiff had and still has herpes, and that Plaintiff has had herpes outbreaks on her mouth.

73. Upon information and belief, as set forth above, the Jones Video published by Jones contains multiple false and defamatory statements about Plaintiff, including that Plaintiff was a prostitute and a user of cocaine and molly, and that Plaintiff has herpes.

74. None of the aforementioned statements about Plaintiff in the Jones Video, 9/2 Video, or the 9/19 Video are true.

75. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew these statements to be false at the time they published them, or Defendants were subjectively aware of the probable falsity of the aforementioned statements at the time they respectively published them.

76. Upon information and belief, by way of example, on a second YouTube channel operated by Kebe, Kebe posted a video that acknowledges she was aware, prior to her publishing the 9/19 Video, that the defamatory statements made by Jones may not have been true.

77. Upon information and belief, Kebe further acknowledged and that she published the 9/19 Video a day earlier than she had planned to because information undermining Jones' credibility was or was about to be published and Kebe wanted the 9/19 Video to have an opportunity to trend (i.e., gain viewership) before people saw the information that would "debunk" Jones' statements.

78. Nevertheless, upon information and belief, after receiving a cease and desist letter demanding she take down the defamatory statements about Plaintiff in the 9/19 Video, Kebe published another video on September 21, 2018 that referred to the 9/19 Video and the Jones Video and falsely stated that “Everything that we said, that everything that [Jones] said was accurate” (9/21 Video at 2:11); that Kebe was “the source” (9/21 Video at 4:38).

79. Upon information and belief, neither Jones nor Kebe made reasonable attempts to verify the false and defamatory statements that were made about Plaintiff before the 9/2 Video, Jones Video, 9/19 Video, or 9/21 Video (collectively, the “Defamatory Videos”) were published.

80. Upon information and belief, Jones knew the statements made in the Jones Video and the 9/19 Video were false or Jones acted with reckless disregard of whether they were true or not.

81. Upon information and belief, Kebe knew the statements made in the Defamatory Videos were false or Kebe acted with reckless disregard of whether they were true or not.

82. Upon information and belief, Defendants published these false statements via YouTube and Instagram and identified Plaintiff by her professional name, her occupation, and showed photos of Plaintiff during the videos so that

individuals who watched them would know the statements made in the videos were about Plaintiff.

83. Upon information and belief, Defendants' false stories were generated and communicated with actual malice, total disregard for the truth, and in the complete absence of any special privilege.

84. Upon information and belief, Kebe had no basis for claiming that the statements in the 9/21 Video were true.

85. Upon information and belief, the 9/2 Video has been viewed by tens of thousands of people.

86. Upon information and belief, the Jones Video has been viewed by thousands of people.

87. Upon information and belief, the 9/19 and 9/21 Videos have been viewed by hundreds of thousands of people.

88. Upon information and belief, the 9/2, 9/19, and 9/21 Videos are still available to be viewed by the public.

89. Upon information and belief, these actions constitute actionable slander per se under O.C.G.A. § 51-5-4(a)(2).

90. Upon information and belief, Defendants' false and defamatory statements made and published in the Defamatory Videos were disparaging and



have produced damage to Plaintiff and to Plaintiff's name, character, and reputation.

91. The aforementioned defamatory statements made and published by Jones have caused Plaintiff to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.

92. The aforementioned defamatory statements made, published, and distributed by Kebe have caused Plaintiff to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.

93. The aforementioned defamatory statements made and published by Jones have also caused damage to Plaintiff's reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations.

94. The aforementioned defamatory statements made, published, and distributed by Kebe have also caused damage to Plaintiff's reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations.

95. Upon information and belief, Defendants' actions constitute slander, and as such, Plaintiff is entitled to special damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

96. Upon information and belief, the actions or omissions of Defendants set forth in this Complaint demonstrate malice, egregious defamation, and insult.

97. Upon information and belief, such actions or omissions by Defendants were undertaken with reckless disregard of the falsity of the speech and its effects on Plaintiff.

98. Plaintiff is entitled to general and special damages for the following harm: emotional distress and impairment to her name, character, and reputation.

99. Additionally, Plaintiff requests an award of punitive damages and attorneys' fees beyond and in excess of those damages necessary to compensate Plaintiff for injuries resulting from Defendants' conduct.

100. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to an order permanently enjoining Defendants and all their respective agents, officers, employees, representatives, successors, assigns, attorneys, and all other persons acting for, with, by, through, or under authority from Kebe and/or Jones, or in concert or participation with Kebe and/or Jones, and each of them, from: making, disseminating, broadcasting, or publishing any statements that Plaintiff has or had herpes; that Plaintiff uses or has used cocaine and/or molly; and/or that Plaintiff was or is a prostitute, as well as an order requiring Kebe and Jones to retract, remove, and repudiate in full all defamatory and disparaging statements made regarding Plaintiff.

## **COUNT II**

### **(Slander Against Defendants)**

101. Plaintiff repeats and realleges by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 100 as if fully set forth herein.

102. Upon information and belief, Defendants' above actions constitute actionable slander under O.C.G.A. § 51-5-4(a)(4).

103. Upon information and belief, Defendants' false and defamatory statements made during the above-referenced videos were disparaging, and have produced damage to Plaintiff, and to Plaintiff's name, character, and reputation.

104. Upon information and belief, Defendants were subjectively aware of the probable falsity of the statements made during the above-referenced videos at the time she published them.

105. Upon information and belief, Defendants' actions constitute slander, and as such, Plaintiff is entitled to special damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

106. Upon information and belief, the actions or omissions of Defendants set forth in this Complaint demonstrate malice, egregious defamation, and insult.

107. Upon information and belief, such actions or omissions by Defendants were undertaken with reckless disregard of the falsity of the speech and its effects on Plaintiff.

108. Plaintiff is entitled to general and special damages for the following harm: emotional distress and impairment to her name, character, and reputation.

109. The aforementioned defamatory statements made and published by Jones have caused Plaintiff to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.

110. The aforementioned defamatory statements made, published, and distributed by Kebe have caused Plaintiff to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.

111. The aforementioned defamatory statements made and published by Jones have also caused damage to Plaintiff's reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations.

112. The aforementioned defamatory statements made, published, and distributed by Kebe have also caused damage to Plaintiff's reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations.

113. Additionally, Plaintiff requests an award of punitive damages and attorneys' fees beyond and in excess of those damages necessary to compensate Plaintiff for injuries resulting from Defendants' conduct.

114. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to an order permanently enjoining Defendants and all their respective agents, officers, employees, representatives, successors, assigns, attorneys, and all other persons acting for, with, by, through, or under authority from Kebe and/or Jones, or in concert or participation with Kebe and/or Jones, and each of them, from: making, disseminating, broadcasting, or publishing any statements that Plaintiff has or had herpes; that Plaintiff uses or has used cocaine and/or molly; and/or that Plaintiff was or is a prostitute, as well as an order requiring Kebe and Jones to retract, remove, and repudiate in full all defamatory and disparaging statements made regarding Plaintiff.

### **COUNT III**

#### **(Libel Per Se Against Defendants)**

115. Plaintiff repeats and realleges by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 114 as if fully set forth herein.

116. Upon information and belief, Jones published the Instagram Comment on or around September 13, 2018.

117. Upon information and belief, Jones published these false statements via Instagram.

118. Upon information and belief, Kebe published the 1/25 Tweet on or around January 25, 2019.

119. Upon information and belief, Kebe published this false statement via Twitter.

120. As set forth above, the statements made in the Instagram Comment and the 1/25 Tweet contain false, defamatory, and libelous statements regarding Plaintiff, including Plaintiff having been a prostitute and having herpes.

121. None of the aforementioned statements about Plaintiff in the Instagram Comment or the 1/25 Tweet are true.

122. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew these statements to be false at the time they respectively published them or acted with reckless disregard of whether they were true or not.

123. Upon information and belief, Defendants were subjectively aware of the probable falsity of the aforementioned statements at the time they each published them.

124. Upon information and belief, Defendants' false stories were generated and communicated with actual malice, total disregard for the truth, and in the complete absence of any special privilege.

125. Upon information and belief, Defendants had no basis for claiming the aforementioned statements were true.

126. Upon information and belief, the Instagram post containing the Instagram Comment has been viewed by thousands of people.

127. Upon information and belief, the 1/25 Tweet was published to Kebe's over six thousand Twitter followers.

128. Upon information and belief, these actions constitute actionable libel per se under O.C.G.A. § 51-5-1.

129. Upon information and belief, Defendants' false and defamatory statements made in the Instagram Comment and 1/25 Tweet were disparaging and have produced damage to Plaintiff and to Plaintiff's name, character, and reputation.

130. The aforementioned defamatory statements made and published by Defendants have caused Plaintiff to suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.

131. The aforementioned defamatory statements published by Defendants have also caused damage to Plaintiff's reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations.

132. Upon information and belief, Defendants' actions constitute libel, and as such, Plaintiff is entitled to special damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

133. Upon information and belief, the actions or omissions of Defendants set forth in this Complaint demonstrate malice, egregious defamation, and insult.

134. Upon information and belief, such actions or omissions by Defendants were undertaken with reckless disregard of the falsity of the speech and its effects on Plaintiff.

135. Plaintiff is entitled to general and special damages for the following harm: emotional distress and impairment to her name, character, and reputation.

136. Additionally, Plaintiff requests an award of punitive damages and attorneys' fees beyond and in excess of those damages necessary to compensate Plaintiff for injuries resulting from Defendants' conduct.

137. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to an order permanently enjoining Defendants and all their respective agents, officers, employees, representatives, successors, assigns, attorneys, and all other persons acting for, with, by, through, or under authority from Kebe and/or Jones, or in concert or participation with Kebe and/or Jones, from: making, disseminating, broadcasting, or publishing any statements that Plaintiff has or had herpes and/or that Plaintiff was or is a prostitute, as well as an order requiring Kebe and Jones to retract, remove, and repudiate in full all defamatory and disparaging statements made regarding Plaintiff.

#### **COUNT IV**

#### **(Invasion of Privacy – False Light Against Defendants)**



138. Plaintiff repeats and realleges by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 137 as if fully set forth herein.

139. Upon information and belief, by publishing the false allegations in the manner described above, Defendants portrayed Plaintiff in a false light intending to cause Plaintiff injury.

140. Upon information and belief, Jones and Kebe knew these statements to be false.

141. Upon information and belief, Jones and Kebe made no attempt to verify the veracity of any statements made regarding Plaintiff.

142. Upon information and belief, Jones knew the statements made in the Jones Video, 9/19 Video, and the Instagram Comment were false.

143. Upon information and belief, Kebe knew the statements made in the 9/2 Video, 9/19 Video, 9/21 Video, and the 1/25 Tweet were false.

144. Upon information and belief, Jones was subjectively aware of probable falsity of the statements made in the Jones Video, 9/19 Video, and the Instagram Comment were false at the time she published them.

145. Upon information and belief, Kebe was subjectively aware of probable falsity of the statements made in the 9/2 Video, 9/19 Video, 9/21 Video, and the 1/25 Tweet at the time she published them.

146. Upon information and belief, Defendants' false statements were generated and communicated with actual malice, total disregard for the truth, and in the complete absence of any special privilege.

147. Upon information and belief, as set forth above Defendants have intentionally intruded upon the solitude and/or seclusion of Plaintiff and her private affairs and/or concerns, and this intrusion, which falsely portrays Plaintiff having a loathsome, contagious, or infectious disease, is highly offensive to a reasonable person.

148. Upon information and belief, Defendants have also intentionally intruded upon the solitude and/or seclusion of Plaintiff and her private affairs and/or concerns, and this further intrusion, which falsely portrays Plaintiff as being a former prostitute and a user of cocaine and/or molly, is highly offensive to a reasonable person.

149. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known the statements alleged herein would create a false impression about Plaintiff and acted in reckless disregard of the truth.

150. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

151. Upon information and belief, Defendants did not engage in any of the aforementioned conduct out of any sincere or proper motive, or in any manner

governed by reasonable and ministerial conduct according to any job duty, but did so knowingly, willfully, and oppressively, with full knowledge of the adverse effects that their actions would have on Plaintiff, and with willful and deliberate disregard for the consequences. Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants in an amount to be determined at trial.

152. Upon information and belief, the actions or omissions of Defendants set forth in this Complaint demonstrate malice, egregious defamation, and insult. Such actions or omissions by Defendants were undertaken with reckless disregard of the falsity of the speech and its effects on Plaintiff.

153. Plaintiff is entitled to general and special damages for the following harm: emotional distress and impairment to her name, character, and reputation.

154. Additionally, Plaintiff requests an award of punitive damages and attorneys' fees beyond and in excess of those damages necessary to compensate Plaintiff for injuries resulting from Defendants' conduct.

155. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to an order permanently enjoining Defendants and all their respective agents, officers, employees, representatives, successors, assigns, attorneys, and all other persons acting for, with, by, through or under authority from Kebe and/or Jones, or in concert or participation with Kebe and/or Jones, and each of them, from: making, disseminating, broadcasting, or publishing any

statements that Plaintiff has or had herpes; that Plaintiff uses or has used cocaine and/or molly; and/or that Plaintiff was or is a prostitute, as well as an order requiring Kebe and Jones remove in full all defamatory and disparaging statements made regarding Plaintiff.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court to enter judgment in her favor and against Defendants, each of them jointly and severally, as follows:

- (a) Awarding Plaintiff damages in amounts pertaining to each to be determined at trial, but not less than \$75,000, including general, special, consequential, actual, statutory, and punitive damages;
- (b) Awarding an accounting to Plaintiff for the gains and profits of Defendants arising from the unlawful conduct;
- (c) Permanently enjoining Defendants and their respective partners, agents, representatives, successors, assigns and employees, and any and all persons in active contact or participation with Defendants, and each of their executors, administrators, successors, licensees, assigns, subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, divisions, co-venturers, partners, officers, directors, employees, agents, shareholders, managers, representatives, consultants, and any and all other persons, corporations, or other entities acting under the supervision, direction, control, or on behalf of any of the foregoing, and each of them, from: making, disseminating,

broadcasting, or publishing any statements that Plaintiff has or had herpes; that Plaintiff uses or has used cocaine and/or molly; and/or that Plaintiff was or is a prostitute;

(d) Issuing an order requiring Kebe to retract, remove, and repudiate in full all defamatory and disparaging statements made regarding Plaintiff;

(e) Issuing an order requiring Jones to retract, remove, and repudiate in full all defamatory and disparaging statements made regarding Plaintiff;

(f) Awarding Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and costs;

(g) Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; and

(h) Granting Plaintiff such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims for relief and issues triable by jury.

Dated: March 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lisa F. Moore

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(pro hac vice application to be filed)  
Sarah M. Matz  
(pro hac vice application to be filed)  
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*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket record. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFF(S)**

BELCALIS MARLENIS ALMÁNZAR

**DEFENDANT(S)**

LATASHA TRANSRINA KEBE a/k/a LATASHA TRANSRINA HOWARD and STARMARIE EBONY JONES

**(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF** State of New York  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

**COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT** Cobb County, Georgia  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED

**(c) ATTORNEYS** (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS)

Lisa F. Moore and W. Andrew Pequignot  
Moore Pequignot LLC  
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Atlanta, Georgia 30318  
lisa@themoorefirm.com; 404-748-9596

**ATTORNEYS** (IF KNOWN)**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION**

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☐ 1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PLAINTIFF  
☐ 2 U.S. GOVERNMENT DEFENDANT  
☐ 3 FEDERAL QUESTION (U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY)  
☒ 4 DIVERSITY (INDICATE CITIZENSHIP OF PARTIES IN ITEM III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES**(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)  
(FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)

- | PLF                                   | DEF                                   |                                         | PLF                        | DEF                        |                                                               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | CITIZEN OF THIS STATE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | INCORPORATED OR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE                | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | FOREIGN NATION                                                |

**IV. ORIGIN** (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☒ 1 ORIGINAL PROCEEDING  
☐ 2 REMOVED FROM STATE COURT  
☐ 3 REMANDED FROM APPELLATE COURT  
☐ 4 REINSTATED OR REOPENED  
☐ 5 TRANSFERRED FROM ANOTHER DISTRICT (Specify District)  
☐ 6 MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION - TRANSFER  
☐ 7 APPEAL TO DISTRICT JUDGE FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE JUDGMENT  
☐ 8 MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION - DIRECT FILE

**V. CAUSE OF ACTION** (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE - DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

This is a diversity action asserting Georgia state law claims for slander per se, slander, libel per se, defamation, and invasion of privacy – false light, as a result of Defendants' publication of slanderous and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff that are false, harmful, and offensive to Plaintiff.

**(IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)**

- |                                                                           |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Unusually large number of parties.            | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Problems locating or preserving evidence                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses. | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Pending parallel investigations or actions by government. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex      | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Multiple use of experts.                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Greater than normal volume of evidence.       | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Need for discovery outside United States boundaries.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Extended discovery period is needed.          | <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Existence of highly technical issues and proof.          |

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

|                 |                                |                      |                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| RECEIPT # _____ | AMOUNT \$ _____                | APPLYING IFP _____   | MAG. JUDGE (IFP) _____ |
| JUDGE _____     | MAG. JUDGE _____<br>(Referral) | NATURE OF SUIT _____ | CAUSE OF ACTION _____  |

**VI. NATURE OF SUIT** (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)CONTRACT - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 150 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT
- ☐ 152 RECOVERY OF DEFAULTED STUDENT LOANS (Excl. Veterans)
- ☐ 153 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS

CONTRACT - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 110 INSURANCE
- ☐ 120 MARINE
- ☐ 130 MILLER ACT
- ☐ 140 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT
- ☐ 151 MEDICARE ACT
- ☐ 160 STOCKHOLDERS' SUITS
- ☐ 190 OTHER CONTRACT
- ☐ 195 CONTRACT PRODUCT LIABILITY
- ☐ 196 FRANCHISE

REAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 210 LAND CONDEMNATION
- ☐ 220 FORECLOSURE
- ☐ 230 RENT LEASE & EJECTMENT
- ☐ 240 TORTS TO LAND
- ☐ 245 TORT PRODUCT LIABILITY
- ☐ 290 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY

TORTS - PERSONAL INJURY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 310 AIRPLANE
- ☐ 315 AIRPLANE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- ☒ 320 ASSAULT, LIBEL & SLANDER
- ☐ 330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY
- ☐ 340 MARINE
- ☐ 345 MARINE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- ☐ 350 MOTOR VEHICLE
- ☐ 355 MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- ☐ 360 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY
- ☐ 362 PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- ☐ 365 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY
- ☐ 367 PERSONAL INJURY - HEALTH CARE/ PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT LIABILITY
- ☐ 368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY

TORTS - PERSONAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 370 OTHER FRAUD
- ☐ 371 TRUTH IN LENDING
- ☐ 380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE
- ☐ 385 PROPERTY DAMAGE PRODUCT LIABILITY

BANKRUPTCY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 422 APPEAL 28 USC 158
- ☐ 423 WITHDRAWAL 28 USC 157

CIVIL RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS
- ☐ 441 VOTING
- ☐ 442 EMPLOYMENT
- ☐ 443 HOUSING/ ACCOMMODATIONS
- ☐ 445 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Employment
- ☐ 446 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Other
- ☐ 448 EDUCATION

IMMIGRATION - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 462 NATURALIZATION APPLICATION
- ☐ 465 OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIONS

PRISONER PETITIONS - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 463 HABEAS CORPUS- Alien Detainee
- ☐ 510 MOTIONS TO VACATE SENTENCE
- ☐ 530 HABEAS CORPUS
- ☐ 535 HABEAS CORPUS DEATH PENALTY
- ☐ 540 MANDAMUS & OTHER
- ☐ 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed Pro se
- ☐ 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed Pro se
- ☐ 560 CIVIL DETAINEE: CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

PRISONER PETITIONS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed by Counsel
- ☐ 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed by Counsel

FORFEITURE/PENALTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 625 DRUG RELATED SEIZURE OF PROPERTY 21 USC 881
- ☐ 690 OTHER

LABOR - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 710 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT
- ☐ 720 LABOR/MGMT. RELATIONS
- ☐ 740 RAILWAY LABOR ACT
- ☐ 751 FAMILY and MEDICAL LEAVE ACT
- ☐ 790 OTHER LABOR LITIGATION
- ☐ 791 EMPL. RET. INC. SECURITY ACT

PROPERTY RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 820 COPYRIGHTS
- ☐ 840 TRADEMARK

PROPERTY RIGHTS - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 830 PATENT
- ☐ 835 PATENT-ABBREVIATED NEW DRUG APPLICATIONS (ANDAs) - a/k/a Hatch-Waxman cases

SOCIAL SECURITY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)
- ☐ 862 BLACK LUNG (923)
- ☐ 863 DIWC (405(g))
- ☐ 863 DIWW (405(g))
- ☐ 864 SSID TITLE XVI
- ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))

FEDERAL TAX SUITS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 870 TAXES (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)
- ☐ 871 IRS - THIRD PARTY 26 USC 7609

OTHER STATUTES - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 375 FALSE CLAIMS ACT
- ☐ 376 Qui Tam 31 USC 3729(a)
- ☐ 400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT
- ☐ 430 BANKS AND BANKING
- ☐ 450 COMMERCE/ICC RATES/ETC.
- ☐ 460 DEPORTATION
- ☐ 470 RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS
- ☐ 480 CONSUMER CREDIT
- ☐ 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV
- ☐ 890 OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS
- ☐ 891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS
- ☐ 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
- ☐ 895 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
- ☐ 899 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT / REVIEW OR APPEAL OF AGENCY DECISION
- ☐ 950 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF STATE STATUTES

OTHER STATUTES - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 410 ANTITRUST
- ☐ 850 SECURITIES / COMMODITIES / EXCHANGE

OTHER STATUTES - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- ☐ 896 ARBITRATION (Confirm / Vacate / Order / Modify)

**\* PLEASE NOTE DISCOVERY TRACK FOR EACH CASE TYPE. SEE LOCAL RULE 26.3**

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☐ CHECK IF CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

JURY DEMAND ☒ YES ☐ NO (CHECK YES ONLY IF DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT)

**VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY**

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**CIVIL CASES ARE DEEMED RELATED IF THE PENDING CASE INVOLVES: (CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX)**

- ☐ 1. PROPERTY INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- ☐ 2. SAME ISSUE OF FACT OR ARISES OUT OF THE SAME EVENT OR TRANSACTION INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- ☐ 3. VALIDITY OR INFRINGEMENT OF THE SAME PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR TRADEMARK INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- ☐ 4. APPEALS ARISING OUT OF THE SAME BANKRUPTCY CASE AND ANY CASE RELATED THERETO WHICH HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY THE SAME BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.
- ☐ 5. REPETITIVE CASES FILED BY PRO SE LITIGANTS.
- ☐ 6. COMPANION OR RELATED CASE TO CASE(S) BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY FILED (INCLUDE ABBREVIATED STYLE OF OTHER CASE(S)):

- ☐ 7. EITHER SAME OR ALL OF THE PARTIES AND ISSUES IN THIS CASE WERE PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, WHICH WAS DISMISSED. This case ☐ IS ☐ IS NOT (check one box) SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CASE.

/s/ Lisa F. Moore

03/21/19

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

DATE