

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO

KALAMAZOO COUNTY REPUBLICAN
COMMITTEE and KELLY SACKETT in her
capacity as KGOP Chair

Case No. 2024-0026-CZ

Plaintiffs

v.

HON. CURTIS J. BELL

RODNEY HALCOMB; KERRY LYNN
ELIEFF; EMILY CRAWFORD; ROBYN
MAXON; KRISTINA KARAMO; DANIEL J.
HARTMAN; JAMES M. COPAS; and
SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN
BENSON;

Defendants.

Matthew S. DePerno (P52622)
DEPERNO LAW OFFICE, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
951 W. Milham Avenue
PO Box 1595
Portage, MI 49081
(269) 321-5064

VERIFIED COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

NOW COMES Plaintiffs, KALAMAZOO COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE and
KELLY SACKETT in her capacity as KGOP Chair, by and through their attorneys, DePERNO
LAW OFFICE, PLLC and for their Complaint against RODNEY HALCOMB; KERRY LYNN
ELIEFF; EMILY CRAWFORD; ROBYN MAXON; KRISTINA KARAMO; DANIEL J.
HARTMAN; JAMES M. COPAS; and SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON; state the
following:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for declaratory relief and other damages resulting from the breach of contract and fraudulent and illegal actions of the Individual Defendants who lead a group of discontent former members of the Kalamazoo County Republican Committee ("KGOP") and who are determined to "take over" the KGOP through rogue and illegal actions.

2. This case involves claims of declaratory relief and injunctive relief, breach of contract, tortious interference with business relationships, obstruction of justice, election fraud, fraud, and conspiracy of the Individual Defendants.

3. Under MCR 3.310, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Honorable Court grant injunction relief, for all the reasons stated in his complaint, motion for temporary restraining order, exhibits, and accompanying brief, which are all incorporated herein by reference.

4. Under Michigan law, "whenever a litigant meets the requirements of MCR 2.605, it is sufficient to establish standing to seek a declaratory judgment." *League of Women Voters v Secretary of State*, 506 Mich 561, 585-586; 957 NW2d 731 (2020).

5. MCR 2.605(A)(l) states that, "in a case of actual controversy in its jurisdiction, a Michigan court of record may declare the rights and other legal relations of an interested party seeking a declaratory judgment."

6. To show an actual controversy, the plaintiffs need only "plead and prove facts which indicate an adverse interest necessitating the sharpening of the issues raised." *Lansing School Educational Association v. Lansing board of Education*, 487 Mich at 372 n.20; 792 NW2d 686 (2010).

7. Michigan's appellate courts have consistently found that a plaintiff pleads an actual controversy where they allege that an invalid rule or illegal action jeopardizes their rights or

interests. See *Lash v. Traverse City*, 479 Mich 180, 196-197; 735 NW2d 628 (2007) *UAW v Central Michigan University Trustees*, 295 Mich App 486, 496-497; 815 Nw2d 132 (2012).

8. At the heart of this case are the claims of breach of contract of the KGOP Bylaws as amended on February 9, 2015 [Exhibit 1, *MIGOP Bylaws #1*] and later amended on September 11, 2023 [Exhibit 2, *KGOP Bylaws #2*] and the bylaws of the Michigan Republican Party (the "MIGOP") [Exhibit 3, *MIGOP Bylaws*].

9. The governance of the KGOP and MIGOP and the duties of their members and officers are defined by their bylaws.

10. Bylaws are a contract among the members of the committee. They are not "suggestions" that can be disregarded at the convenience of any member or officer. See e.g. *El-Khalil v Oakwood Healthcare, Inc.*, 504 Mich 152; 934 NW2d 665 (2019) ("Plaintiff asserts that the denial of his privileges was in breach of the bylaws . . . [p]laintiff's assertion is legally sufficient for his breach-of-contract claim to survive MCR 2.116(C)(8)." *Id.* at 166. See also *Conlin v Upton*, 313 Mich App 243, 255; 881 NW2d 511 (2015) (bylaws "constitute a binding contractual agreement between [an] [entity] and its members"). See also *Kauffman v Chicago Corp*, 187 Mich App 284, 287; 466 NW2d 726 (1991) (stating that "those constitutions, rules, and bylaws of the entity at issue "constitute[d] a contract by all members" of the entity "with each other and with the [entity] itself").

11. This case is justiciable because (1) its resolution calls upon the Court to decide whether the actions described herein complied with the bylaws or breached the bylaws; (2) courts regularly deal with cases involving compliance with bylaws of private associations. See *Hillsdale County Republican Executive Committee v Daren Wisely, et al*, Case No. 2022-688-CZ, Hillsdale County Circuit Court (Hon. Michael R. Olsaver, Oct. 5, 2023). See also *Pritchett-Evans v*

Republican Party of Kalamazoo, et al, Case No. 2023-0169-CZ, Kalamazoo County Circuit Court (Hon. Curtis J. Bell, Aug. 10, 2023) (finding that the court did not have jurisdiction to decide the dispute where the plaintiffs did not specifically plead a violation of the organization's bylaws.)

12. Plaintiff Kelly Sackett is the duly elected Chair of the KGOP. She is also an ex-officio member of the MIGOP. [Ex 3, p4].

13. The individual Defendants have either directly or through acts that create a conspiracy, breached the KGOP Bylaws and MIGOP Bylaws by holding an illegal and unauthorized convention on September 15, 2023. Then they conspired to breach the bylaws by having MIGOP (through its Chairman Kristina Karamo, Chief of Staff James Copas, and General Counsel Daniel Hartman) "recognize" a rouge band of anarchists as the "official KGOP" on January 13, 2024.

14. Pursuant to MCL 168.611(1) and the "MIGOP Rules for Delegates and Alternates to the 2024 Spring Michigan Republican County and District Conventions" the MIGOP is required to hold a convention prior to the Michigan primary for the purpose of electing 44 delegates and 44 alternates. This convention will take place on March 2, 2024 at Huntington Place, 1 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226. In addition, all counties must hold a county convention on February 15, 2024 to elect their county representatives to attend the state convention.

15. On January 11, 2023, the KGOP properly and timely issued the official "Call to Convention" for February 15, 2024, along with the convention rules and a cease-and-desist letter [Exhibit 4, *Official Call to Convention*].

16. An actual case in controversy exists because a rogue band of anarchists and former KGOP members (the "Fake Splinter Group") sent a competing unauthorized and illegal "Call to

Convention" for February 15, 2024 (the "Fake Call to February Convention"). This obviously competes with the Official Call to Convention sent by the KGOP.

17. The Fake Call to February Convention was sent to all KGOP delegates and will confuse and disenfranchise their vote. Some delegates will unknowingly attend the Fake Convention and some delegates will correctly attend the Real KGOP Convention. Then there will be competing slates of delegates; one will be an illegal fake slate out of the Fake Convention and the other will be the proper slate from the Real KGOP Convention.

18. On January 6, 2024, Defendants Karamo, Hartman, and Copas were removed from their positions with MIGOP by removal vote and termination. Yet they refuse to vacate their offices of Chairman, General Counsel, and Chief of Staff, respectively.

19. On January 13, 2024, Karamo, Hartman, and Copas breached multiple bylaw provisions by illegally "recognizing" the Fake Splinter Group as the real KGOP in violation of state law using a forged and illegal document which was then transmitted to the Secretary of State through email (wire) and mail. This illegal at constitutes fraud and obstruction of justice. The January 13, 2024 meeting also violated multiple bylaws provisions through an illegal quorum count and by setting aside specific bylaw provisions to achieve their result, which is never permitted.

20. This Complaint seeks an initial temporary restraining order and permanent injunction and declaratory relief that the Fake Splinter Group is in fact "fake" and the real KGOP is in fact "real" and that the Fake Call to February Convention is unauthorized and should be disregarded because, in part, the Individual Defendants have breached multiple provisions of various bylaws and Karamo, Hartman, and Copas were removed from their positions on January 6, 2024.

21. Plaintiffs request this Court order "a speedy hearing" of this action and "advance it on the calendar" as provided by MCR 2.605(D). The reason for a "speedy hearing" is described herein and results from competing "Calls to Convention" on February 15, 2024 that will confuse and disenfranchise voters and delegates.

22. Plaintiffs, therefore, seek this Court's intervention to uphold the rule of law and provide declaratory and injunctive relief consistent with the MIGOP Bylaws and KGOP Bylaws.

PARTIES

23. The KALAMAZOO COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE ("KGOP") is a county political committee formed pursuant to state law on January 1, 1977 after the enactment of MCL 169.211 (1976, Act 388, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 1976) and was assigned committee ID#001353. The most recent amended statement of organization is attached as [Exhibit 6, Statement of Organization].

24. KELLY SACKETT ("Sackett") is a Kalamazoo County resident and the duly elected Chair of the KGOP executive committee (the "Real KGOP"). She is also an ex-officio member of the Michigan Republican Party.

25. RODNEY HALCOMB ("Halcomb") is a Kalamazoo County resident and fraudulently claims to be the elected Chair of the KGOP executive committee. He is not a member of the Real KGOP. He is not the Chair of the KGOP executive committee.

26. KERRY LYNN ELIEFF ("Elieff") is a Kalamazoo County resident and fraudulently claims to be the elected Vice Chair of the KGOP executive committee. She is not a member of the KGOP. She is not a Kalamazoo County delegate. She is not the Vice Chair of the KGOP executive committee.

27. EMILY CRAWFORD ("Crawford") is a Kalamazoo County resident and fraudulently claims to be the elected Secretary of the KGOP executive committee. She is not a member of the KGOP. She is not a Kalamazoo County delegate. She is not the Secretary of the KGOP executive committee.

28. ROBYN MAXON ("Maxon") is a Kalamazoo County resident and fraudulently claims to be the elected Treasurer of the KGOP executive committee. She is not a member of the KGOP. She is not the Treasurer of the KGOP executive committee.

29. Halcomb, Elieff, Crawford, and Maxon are the unauthorized illegally elected officers of "the Fake Splinter Group" who have breached the KGOP Bylaws #1 and KGOP Bylaws #2 and through those actions are attempting to perpetrate a fraud through misrepresentation, identify theft, election fraud, and obstruction of justice. They are referred to in this Complaint as "the Fake Splinter Group."

30. KRISTINA KARAMO ("Karamo") is an Oakland County resident and fraudulently claims to be the Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party state central committee ("MIGOP"). She was voted out of office on January 6, 2024. She now refuses to vacate that position. In her capacity as a usurper of office, she conducts business throughout the entire State of Michigan.

31. DANIEL J. HARTMAN ("Hartman") is an Emmett County resident and fraudulently claims to be the elected general counsel of the MIGOP state committee. He was voted out of office on January 6, 2024. He now refuses to vacate that position. In his capacity as a usurper of office, he conducts business throughout the entire State of Michigan.

32. JAMES M. COPAS ("Copas") is a Wayne County resident and fraudulently claims to be the executive director of the MIGOP state committee. He was terminated on January 6, 2024.

He now refuses to vacate that position. In his capacity as a usurper of office, he conducts business throughout the entire State of Michigan.

33. Karamo, Hartman, and Copas are the unauthorized former officers and employees of MIGOP and are referred to in this Complaint as "the Fake MIGOP Officers."

34. Halcomb, Elieff, Crawford, Maxon, Karamo, Hartman, and Copas may collectively be referred to as the "Individual Defendants."

35. SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON and has authority to accept nonfraudulent statements of organization of political committees pursuant to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* She is included as a defendant solely for the purpose of seeking an initial temporary restraining order and permanent injunction and declaratory relief to prevent her from processing the illegal and fake documents submitted by the Fake KGOP and Fake MIGOP.

JURISDICTION and VENUE

36. The transactions that give rise to this cause of action occurred in Kalamazoo County, the State of Michigan.

37. This Court has personal jurisdiction pursuant to MCL 600.701.

38. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to MCL 600.605.

39. Venue is proper pursuant to MCL 600.1621 and MCR 3.310.

40. The amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000.

41. Plaintiffs request declaratory relief pursuant to MCR 2.605.

COMMON ALLEGATIONS

THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

42. Upon information and belief, on or about January 1, 1977, pursuant to MCL 169.211(6), the Michigan Republican Party, as the state central committee officially designated KGOP as the political party committee for Kalamazoo County. [Exhibit 7, Designation].

43. The KGOP has operated peacefully for many years until recently when this Fake Splinter Group of rogue infiltrators decided it was their mission to "burn down the party." The Fake MIGOP Officers have no authority to designate a splinter group as the official KGOP [Exhibit 8, Opinion Letter].

44. As stated, the governance of the KGOP and the duties of its members and officers defined by its bylaws adopted on April 12, 2012 and subsequently amended.

THE MICHIGAN REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE

45. The Michigan Republican State Committee (the "MIGOP") is the governing body of the Republican Party in Michigan. The governance of the MIGOP and the duties of its members and officers is defined by its bylaws (the "MIGOP Bylaws") [Ex 3].

46. The MIGOP does not have an office, but instead rents a UPS box at 3450 Alpine Ave., NW, Box 206, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

47. The present "state central committee" of the MIGOP (the "Committee") was constituted on February 23, 2023. Article II of the MIGOP Bylaws identifies the Committee as the governing body of the MIGOP.

48. Article III, Sec. (B)(8) states that "the Chairman of each county executive committee during his/her term of office" shall be an "ex-officio member" of the MIGOP.

49. The MIGOP Bylaws provide for autonomy of district and county committees, such as KGOP, including but not limited to the following:

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The purpose of this Committee shall be as follows: . . . (B)(2) work in close cooperation with other Republican state, district and county organizations.

ARTICLE XIII – County Executive Committees and Optional County Party Committee

A. Number. There are as many as eighty-two (82) county executive committees and four (4) congressional district portion committees in the State of Michigan. The county executive committee of each county shall adopt its own bylaws and rules of procedure.

ARTICLE XI – Organization of the Michigan Republican Party

B. Non-Affiliation of Political Party Committees. Although the Committee works in cooperation with congressional district and county party organizations, the Committee is not "affiliated" with the congressional district and county party organizations so that any contributions made by these political party committees shall be presumed to be made by one political committee under the Federal Election Campaign Act, 2 USC § 431 et seq., and corresponding regulations or under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, MCL 169.201 et seq. No provision in these Bylaws shall be interpreted to allow any political party committee to control any other political party committee so that any contributions made by these political party committees shall be presumed to be made by one political committee under the Federal Election Campaign Act, 2 USC § 431 et seq., and corresponding regulations or under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, MCL 169.201 et seq.

50. The MIGOP Bylaws are clear and provide for autonomy of county committees. The county committees shall adopt their own bylaws and rules of procedure. The MIGOP is specifically not affiliated with the county committee. The MIGOP shall not assert control over any county committee. Nevertheless, as stated in Article II, the MIGOP is required to cooperate with county organizations, not work against them.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS OF KGOP

51. Article III of the KGOP Bylaws #1 define the establishment, duties, membership, and selection of the county executive committee and state in Sec 4(A):

"The precinct delegates to the Fall County Convention shall convene at the call of the Party Chairperson within twenty (20) days following the November election for the purpose of selecting the Elected Members of the Executive Committee. [MCL 168.599(1)]."

52. On November 28, 2022, Kalamazoo County delegates met at their county convention as required pursuant to Article III, Sec. 4(A) and elected a new executive committee [Exhibit 9].

53. Article III, Sec. 8 of the KGOP Bylaws #1 define the selection of officers and their term and state:

A. Within thirty (30) days following the convening of the Fall County Convention (convened in even numbered years), the Executive Committee shall meet and select a temporary chairperson and a temporary secretary. The temporary officers shall serve only during the selection of the officers of the Executive Committee, who shall also serve as the officers of the County Committee for the two (2) years commencing on January 1 next (odd numbered years). Newly elected officers shall be sworn in at the December Executive committee meeting.

B. The officers of the Executive Committee and the County Committee shall be: The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

54. On December 12, 2022, the executive committee met as required pursuant to Article III, Sec. 8(A) and (B) and elected Sackett as Chair, Charley Coss as Vice Chair, Kathleen Olmstead as Secretary, and Ronald Austin as Treasurer [Exhibit 10, Minutes 12/12/22].

55. On December 27, 2022, Sackett and Ronald Austin filed an amended Statement of Organization as required by MCL 169.224 [Ex 6].

56. MCL 169.215(1) requires the Secretary of State to "receive the statements and reports required under this act" provided it is truthful. The statement of organization is then recorded by the Secretary of State pursuant to MCL 169.216 and made available to the public. In this case, at <https://cfrsearch.nictusa.com/committees/001353#documents>.

57. The Statement of Organization includes a "verification" section, which is an unsworn declaration. And "unsworn declaration" means "a declaration or other affirmation of truth in a signed record that is not given under oath, but is under penalty of perjury." MCL 600.2182(g). An unsworn declaration has the same effect as a sworn declaration. MCL 600.2184(1).

58. The Secretary of State should not accept fraudulent reports.

REMOVAL OF DELEGATES

59. After the election of the executive committee and officers, several members of the executive committee resigned. Some of them had run for office in the 2022 cycles and after losing their elections did not want to be part of the executive committee. On February 13, 2023, the executive committee met and voted to fill all empty seats.

60. Also, following the election of the executive committee and officers, a group of delegates and members, including Sabrina Pritchett-Evans¹ and Kim Harris, started to engage in anarchist type behavior where their focus was on "burning down the party," where raising money and getting Republicans elected was not important; but instead they desired to push a radical agenda through a cult mentality that will "purify" the party; and only when the party is "purified" will the party be able to attract the "right kind" of donors needed to transform the party into their image.

61. These anarchist-minded delegates and members engaged in disruptive behavior such as (1) secretly recording meetings in violation of published KGOP rules and procedures and posting those videos on social media and (2) disrupting meetings to such a degree that business could not be conducted and police were called to remove them from the premises.

62. On March 1, 2023, the KGOP executive committee voted to censure four (4) delegates and members who were and had engaged in anarchist-minded activities. These were Sabrina Pritchett-Evans, Kim Harris, Veronica Pero, and William Bennett.

63. On March 29, 2023, Pritchett-Evans and Harris filed a lawsuit styled *Sabrina Pritchett-Evans and Kimberly Harris v Republican Party of Kalamazoo, State of Michigan*

¹ Sabrina Pritchett-Evans ran against Kelly Sackett for the position of KGOP Chair on December 12, 2022. Sabrina Pritchett-Evans lost.

(KGOP), Kalamazoo Grand Old Party Executive Committee (KGOPEC), and (AKA) Kalamazoo County Republican Committee (KGOPEC), and Kelly Sackett, Case No. 2023-0169-CZ, Kalamazoo County Circuit Court.

64. On or about April 6, 2023, the executive committee removed 17 delegates from the KGOP. These removed delegates included Defendant Elieff, Sabrina Pritchett-Evans and Kim Harris [Exhibit 11, Removed Delegates]. The 17 removed delegates are the following:

Jerry Amos	Taukir Gill	Sabrina Pritchett-Evans
Shirley Ann Amos	Jessica Gottwald	Rene Saar
Christine Augustine	David Harris	David Stevens
William Bennett	Kimberly Harris	Sandra Vanderlugt
Emily Crawford	Kimberly Kourtjian	Ronald White
John Thomas Elieff	Robyn Maxson	Todd White
Kerry Lynn Elieff	Veronica Pero	

65. Delegates are not elected positions. Instead, they are party positions and are subject to membership requirements of the party. The decision to remove a delegate is an internal party process that will not be disturbed by the court and is not justiciable. See *Pritchett-Evans et al v KGOP et al*, [*supra*]

66. On August 10, 2023, the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court issued an opinion [Exhibit 12, Opinion and Order] dismissing three of the four counts stating that the actions of the KGOP executive committee were not justiciable because they amounted to intra-party disputes. [*Id.*] In essence, the KGOP is an independent, private political organization that has the right to govern itself, control its membership, and establish its rules and procedures. [*Id.*] However, the court stated it could have heard claims related to breach of contract, but the plaintiffs in that case did not bring a breach of contract claim.

REMOVED DELEGATES AND MEMBERS FORM FAKE SPLINTER GROUP

67. After the removal of these delegates and members, some of them formed a splinter group called "Kzoo Delegates" a/k/a "Kzoo Precinct Delegates" a/k/a "Kalamazoo County Delegates" even though some of them were no longer delegates.

68. On or about August 12, 2023 this Fake Splinter Group started sending emails to Kalamazoo County delegates claiming they were "the real KGOP." [Exhibit 13]. This was done to harass the Real KGOP and hurt fundraising efforts.

FAKE SPLINTER GROUP CALLS A FAKE CONVENTION ON AUGUST 17, 2023

69. Article III, Sec. 4(A) of the KGOP Bylaws #1 states that the executive committee shall be elected at a convention within 20 days after the November election. Only the Chair is permitted to called a convention.

70. Article III, Sec. 8(A) and (B) of the KGOP Bylaws #1 state that the officers shall be elected at an executive committee meeting within 30 days following the county convention.

71. If there is any doubt, MCL 168.622 states that "[t]he county conventions of each political party shall be held at the time and place that the county committee of each political party, through its chairperson, designates."

72. Delegates, members, non-delegates, or non-members are not permitted to call a county convention for any reason, even if a large majority so desire.

73. Even if the Fake Splinter Group wanted to call a "special meeting," those rules are set forth in Article V, Sec. 2 of the KGOP Bylaws #1 and state the following:

2 – Special Meetings

Special meetings shall be called by the County Chairperson upon the written request of the number of members of the Executive Committee that would constitute a quorum or by the County Chairperson on his own motion. Upon receipt of such a request, the Chairperson has up to five business days to schedule the special meeting. It shall be scheduled between five and ten business days after its

time is decided. Notice of special meetings must be given to all Executive Committee members when its time is decided and must specify the purpose(s) of the meeting.

3 – Quorum

A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of at least 30 per cent of the total voting members of the Executive Committee. The affirmative vote of a majority of those present shall be necessary to take formal action, except as otherwise provided herein or by law.

74. No request was made to the KGOP Chair for a special meeting.

75. Again, the bylaws are a contract between members and they cannot be suspended, no matter how great the vote to suspend them may be. Nor can they be suspended because the rule is too inconvenient. Such principles cannot be suspended, even if the membership unanimously agrees to suspension.

76. On August 17, 2023, the Fake Splinter Group, through Defendant Elieff ignored these principles and issued an "Official Call to Special Convention of the Kalamazoo County Delegates" for September 15, 2023 [Exhibit 14, *Fake Call to September Convention*].

77. As of August 17, 2023, Defendant Elieff was not a delegate.

78. This Fake Call to September Convention was a fraud on the delegates and constitutes mail and wire fraud, tortious interference, election fraud, fraud, and conspiracy.

FAKE SPLINTER GROUP HOLDS A FAKE CONVENTION

79. On September 11, 2023, the KGOP amended its bylaws [Ex 2].

80. On September 15, 2023, the Fake Splinter Group fraudulently convinced delegates to attend their meeting through deceptive means, including sending a video through email (wire) and telling delegates to attend [Exhibit 15].²

² <https://rumble.com/v3i8m78-tyranny-unmasked-in-kalamazoo-mi.html>

81. Pursuant to Section 5.1 of the KGOP Bylaws #2, only the Chair can call a convention and conduct county conventions."

82. Pursuant to Section 5.3 of the KGOP Bylaws #2, only the KGOP can publish the convention rules. They must be published 2 months prior to any county convention. No convention rules were published 2 months prior to September 15, 2023.

83. Pursuant to Section 5.3 of the KGOP Bylaws #2, no member shall give a proxy for representation at a county convention.

84. On September 18, 2023, Defendant Rod Halcomb sent an email with minutes from the Fake Convention stating that "a total of 73 precinct delegates attended" and that they voted "to replace the current Kalamazoo County Republican Executive Committee." [Exhibit 16]. He signed the email as "Rod Halcomb, Chair Kalamazoo County Republican Executive Committee."

85. This email was sent by wire and was a fraud on Kalamazoo County delegates and constitutes mail and wire fraud, tortious interference, election fraud, fraud, and conspiracy.

86. KGOP Bylaws #2 and MIGOP Bylaws do not discuss quorum for a convention. Therefore, Section 3.3 of the KGOP Bylaws #2 applies and *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* ("RONR") govern. RONR 40:2(3) states that "[i]n any other deliberative assembly with enrolled membership whose bylaws do not specify a quorum, the quorum is a majority of all the members."

87. On September 15, 2023, the KGOP had 157 delegates.

88. Pursuant to RONR 40:2(3), quorum is 79.

89. The Fake September Convention did not have quorum had could not conduct business.

AFTER THE FAKE SEPTEMBER CONVENTION THE FAKE SPLINTER GROUP MISAPPROPRIATES KGOP NAME AND IMAGE

90. Following the September 15, 2023 illegal and fake convention, Defendant Halcomb continued to send emails to delegates stating he was the KGOP Chair [Ex 13].

91. Between September 15, 2023 and present, Defendant Halcomb sent no less than 12 emails across the wires to defraud delegates and misappropriate the name and likeness of KGOP, which interfered with recruitment and fundraising. [Id].

92. Defendant Halcomb also petitioned Defendant Karamo to recognize his group of anarchist-minded people as the "official" KGOP executive committee.

MEMBERS REMOVED FOR FAILURE TO PAY DUES AND PARTICIPATE

93. On November 17, 2023, the KGOP executive committee met and voted to remove 51 people from membership within the KGOP pursuant to Section 4.3, which states that "[a]ny member may be removed from the KGOP for any reason by three-fifths (3/5) vote of the Executive Committee members present at a regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting or at a Special Meeting. The 52 removed members are the following:

Ruth Berjawi	Megan Haan	Sarah Losota
George Beuckelaere	Rodney Halcomb	Lorraine Malackowski
Ann Brissette	Dana Hatfield	C. James Mallinson
James Bloomfield Jr	Julie Henderson	Manfred Martin
Sandra Bloomfield	Pamela Herbert	Shelly Misak
Jamie Calder	Robert Heuermann	Gary Mitchell
Kurt Calder	Paula Hochstetler	James Mitchell
Veronica Carra	William Hochstetler	Shelby Nowak
Mark Chilcott	Daniel Hoffman	Angela Palomaki

Christian Chojnowski	Dennis Kehoe	Julie Pieper
Kelly Cox	Gail Koporetz	Melvin Reeves
Dana Craft	Rebecca Larsen	Paul Seals
Shelby Crouse	Bruce Lenardson	David Stevens
Theresa Devries	Cindy Little	Kathy Stoll
Patricia Doran	Kevin Little	Debra Thompson-Smith
Sarah Gage	Thomas Little	Jeremy Smith
Taukir Gill	Joshua Losota	Heather Triqueros

94. These members were removed for failure to pay dues and participate. They were given the opportunity to appeal (none of them did) and they can reapply pursuant to Section 4.1 (none of them have) [Exhibit 17, Removed Members].

KARAMO AND HARTMAN WERE REMOVED AS CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL COUNSEL OF MIGOP ON JANUARY 6, 2023

95. At a special meeting of the MIGOP state Committee on January 6, 2023, Karamo and Hartman were removed from their respective position by votes of over 95% of those members present and voting. Copas was also fired [Exhibit 18, Terminations].

96. However, Karamo, Hartman, and Copas have refused to vacate their positions. However, Karamo, Hartman, and Copas have refused to vacate their positions. Instead, they have engaged in a war of deceit by sending mass emails and engaging in an social media campaign to declare they are still in charge of MIGOP.

FAKE SPLINTER GROUP ISSUES NEW CALL TO CONVENTION

97. On January 9, 2024, the Fake Splinter Group called a county convention [Ex 5].

98. They had no authority to call a convention.

KARAMO, HARTMAN, AND OWENS REMOVE KGOP LEADERSHIP

99. After being fired, Karamo, Hartman, and Copas held a meeting on January 13, 2024 and violated the MIGOP Bylaws and "recognized" the Fake Splinter Group as the KGOP [Exhibit 19].

100. On January 14, 2024, Halcomb sent an email stating that his Fake Splinter Group was now the KGOP [Exhibit 20]. "I am pleased to inform you that January 13, 2024, marked a momentous occasion for our county delegates. The Michigan State Republican Party Central Committee, in a decisive vote, officially recognized the newly elected executive committee, which assumed office on September 15, 2023, as the legitimate executive committee of Kalamazoo County."

101. Halcomb had no authority to steal the identity of KGOP. His previously called "convention" was a fraud.

102. Karamo had no authority to recognize the Fake Splinter Group as the KGOP because she had been removed from her position the week before.

HARTMAN AND COPAS BREAK THE LAW BY CONTACTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE; THIS IS ELECTION INTERFERENCE AND IS TAMPERING WITH WHICH DELEGATES ARE SENT TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

103. On January 16, 2024, Hartman and Copas sent a letter to the Secretary of State stating that MIGOP had "recognized" the Fake Splinter Group as the real KGOP. This letter was copied to 22 Kalamazoo precincts [Exhibit 21].

104. This letter is election fraudulent because Karamo, Hartman, and Copas had been previously removed and terminated from their positions.

HALCOMB OBSTRUCTS JUSTICE AND ATTEMPTS TO STEAL BANK ACCOUNT BY DEMANDING ACCESS TO KGOP FINANCIAL RECORDS

105. On January 16, 2023, Defendant Halcomb sent a message to Sackett demanding access to the KGOP's private access code in order to change financial records and access the bank account of KGOP.

COUNT 1
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT and INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

106. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate as if set forth fully herein all preceding allegations contained in this Complaint.

107. Under MCR 3.310, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Honorable Court grant injunction relief, for all the reasons stated in his complaint, motion for temporary restraining order, exhibits, and accompanying brief, which are all incorporated herein by reference.

108. Under MCR 2.605, in a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction, this Court may declare the rights and other legal relations of an interested party seeking declaratory judgement, whether or not other relief is or could be sought or granted.

109. There is an actual controversy within this Court's jurisdiction regarding the proper and competing conventions for February 15, 2024.

110. There is an actual controversy within this Court's jurisdiction regarding whether Karamo, Hartman, and Copas had the authority to recognize the Fake Splinter Group as the official KGOP after they were terminated and fired on January 6, 2024.

111. There is an actual controversy within this Court's jurisdiction regarding whether the Secretary of State has the authority to accept notice from Hartman and Copas that the Fake Splinter Group is the official KGOP after they were terminated and fired on January 6, 2024.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment in the following form:

- (a) the Fake Call to the September Convention was illegal and in violation of the KGOP Bylaws and the September convention did not have quorum present;
- (b) the Fake Call to the February Convention [Ex 5] was illegal and in violation of the KGOP Bylaws;
- (c) the KGOP Official Call to Convention [Ex 4] is the only proper and authorized call to convention for the only authorized February convention of Kalamazoo delegates and Kelly Sackett remains the Chair of the KGOP;
- (d) Karamo, Hartman, and Copas had no authority to recognize the Fake Splinter Group as the official KGOP because the bylaws and state law does not permit such action and Karamo, Hartman, and Copas were previously removed or fired from MIGOP on January 6, 2024;
- (e) The Secretary of State and county and local clerks shall not recognize the false and fraudulent letter submitted by Hartman and Copas on January 16, 2024 [Ex 21] and shall continue to recognize Kelly Sackett as the Chair of the KGOP; and
- (f) all actions taken by Defendants Halcomb, Elieff, Crawford, and Maxon individually and in the name of KGOP and/or "Kzoo Delegates" a/k/a "Kzoo Precinct Delegates" a/k/a "Kalamazoo County Delegates" are null and void and have no force or effect as a fraud on Kalamazoo delegates, the Secretary of State, and county and local clerks;
- (g) all actions taken by Karamo, Hartman, and Copas after being removed on January 6, 2024, including but not limited to, any meetings they have called and held, any actions taken, and any emails or declarations posted or sent by email or social media, are null and void and have no force or effect.

COUNT 2
BREACH OF CONTRACT against the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS

112. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate as if set forth fully herein all preceding allegations contained in this Complaint.

113. As noted above, bylaws constitute a binding contractual agreement between organization and its members.

114. By the conduct described above, the Individual Defendants failed to comply with the KGOP Bylaws #1, KGOP Bylaws #2, and the MIGOP Bylaws.

115. The Individual Defendants' failure to comply with the bylaws constitutes a breach of contract.

116. As a result of the Individual Defendants' breaches, Plaintiffs' rights under the bylaws have been impaired and Plaintiffs have been damaged.

WHEREFORE, because of Defendants' actions and conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in an amount of no less than \$25,000.00 for the injuries sustained plus additional damages as may be proven to compensate them for losses and damages demanded in this Complaint, plus exemplary and punitive damages, together with interest, costs, and actual attorney's fees incurred in maintaining this matter, and for such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT 3
TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP against the
INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS

117. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate as if set forth fully herein all preceding allegations contained in this Complaint.

118. The Individual Defendants were aware that they were publishing the misleading notices and emails.

119. Plaintiffs have valid business relationship or expectancy with his membership, the community, and donors.

120. The Individual Defendants knew that Plaintiffs have valid business relationship or expectancy with his membership, the community, and donors. In fact, their published emails and notices would knowingly reach Plaintiffs' donors and were send directly to them.

121. The Individual Defendants knew that the misleading notices and emails could cause Plaintiffs' relationships to believe that Plaintiffs were no longer the Real KGOP.

122. The Individual Defendants' act of publishing the misleading notices and emails was an intentional interference by the Individual Defendants inducing or causing a breach of contract and termination of the relationship or expectancy.

123. The Individual Defendants' act of publishing the misleading notices and emails is a per se wrongful act or the doing of a lawful act with malice or unjustified in law for the purpose of invading the contractual rights or business relationship of Plaintiffs.

WHEREFORE, because of The Individual Defendants' actions and conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in an amount of not less than \$25,000.00 for the injuries sustained plus additional damages as may be proven to compensate them for losses and damages demanded in this Complaint, plus exemplary and punitive damages, together with interest, costs, and actual attorney's fees incurred in maintaining this matter, and for such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT 4
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE and FRAUD against the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS

124. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate as if set forth fully herein all preceding allegations contained in this Complaint.

125. As noted above, the Individual Defendants have committed a fraud on the Secretary of State, Kalamazoo County Clerk, and local precincts by sending notices and emails that are false and fraudulent.

126. As noted above, the Individual Defendants have committed a fraud on delegates by sending them fake notices of conventions knowing that they had no authority to send the notice, had no authority to hold a convention, and had no authority to conduct a vote.

127. These false and fraudulent documents are considered "unauthorized process" under MCL 750.478a and constitute a crime.

128. The purposed of the Individual Defendants submitting the "unauthorized process" to government officials is to convince them that the Fake Splinter Group oversees the KGOP, which will permit them to conduct an illegal convention on February 15, 2024 in order to send a fake slate of electors to the National Republican Convention and interfere with the presidential election.

129. The Individual Defendants knew delegates and elected officials would rely on these false statements.

130. Indeed, delegates and election officials have relief on these false statements and notices.

131. The Individual Defendants have made these false statements in order to profit either through money or other powerful enrichment, such as status in their community that the opportunity to attend and vote at the Republican National Convention.

WHEREFORE, because of Defendants' actions and conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in an amount of no less than \$25,000.00 for the injuries sustained plus additional damages as may be proven to compensate them for losses and damages demanded in this Complaint, plus

exemplary and punitive damages, together with interest, costs, and actual attorney's fees incurred in maintaining this matter, and for such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT 5
CONSPIRACY and CONCERT OF ACTIONS against the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS

132. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate as if set forth fully herein all preceding allegations contained in this Complaint.

133. The Individual Defendants acted tortiously.

134. The Individual Defendants acted pursuant to a common design.

135. At all relevant times, the Individual Defendants engaged in concerted activities described in the preceding paragraphs by express or implied agreement.

136. This concerted action was intended to, among other things, to interfere with the upcoming election and convention, interfere with delegate votes, and cause Plaintiffs harm and damages.

137. Plaintiffs are not able to identify all the activities of the Individual Defendants due to the generic similarity of such activities engaged in and promoted by the Individual Defendants and/or an agent thereof; but has provided details herein of the many activities engaged in and promoted by the Individual Defendants.

138. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' concerted activities, Plaintiffs have sustained, and will continue to sustain, severe injuries and damages.

139. Due to the concert of action among the Individual Defendants and/or an agent thereof, each is liable to Plaintiffs for these injuries and damages even if there was no directed relation to the aforementioned activities conducted by any one particular person, party, or agent thereof.

140. The Individual Defendants are jointly, severally, and/or alternatively liable to Plaintiff for all of their injuries and damages.

141. Plaintiffs are entitled to exemplary and punitive damages.

142. As a direct and proximate cause of the violations described in this Complaint, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer from the Individual Defendants' actions, including but not limited to legal expenses and interference with fundraising. Plaintiffs is entitled to compensatory, exemplary, and punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, because of the Individual Defendants' actions and conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in an amount of no less than \$25,000.00 for the injuries sustained plus additional damages as may be proven to compensate them for losses and damages demanded in this Complaint, plus exemplary and punitive damages, together with interest, costs, and actual attorney's fees incurred in maintaining this matter, and for such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted

DePERNO LAW OFFICE, PLLC


Matthew S. DePerno (P52622)

Dated: January 22, 2024

VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Michigan that the contents of the foregoing complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.


Kelly Sackett

Dated: January 22, 2024

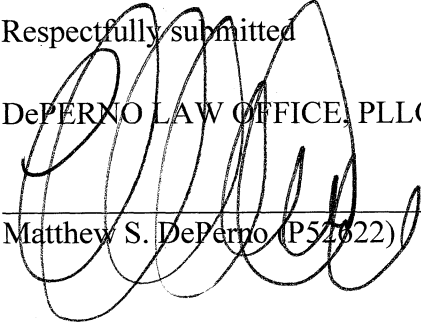
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, by and through his attorney DePERNO LAW OFFICE, PLLC, hereby demands a trial by jury in the above-entitled matter as to all issues and claims for which a jury trial is allowed.

Respectfully submitted

DePERNO LAW OFFICE, PLLC

Dated: January 22, 2024


Matthew S. DePerno (P52622)