

STATE OF MICHIGAN
CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 30TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
INGHAM COUNTY

DANA NESSEL, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,

Plaintiff,

No. 2024- 830 - CZ

v

HON. 

DONALD PELTIER,

Defendant.

Brien Winfield Heckman (P76006)
Attorney for Plaintiff
Michigan Department of Attorney General
Corporate Oversight Division
P.O. Box 30736
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-7632

COMPLAINT

Attorney General Dana Nessel, by and through Assistant Attorney General Brien Winfield Heckman, brings this Complaint for Money Had and Received, and other Equitable Relief (Complaint). Under this Complaint, the Attorney General makes the following allegations.

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff is the Attorney General of the State of Michigan, appearing on

behalf of the People of the State of Michigan, pursuant to her statutory and common law authority to obtain fines, injunctive relief, and through *parens patriae* authority to address the wrongfully obtained funds from Michigan-based donors.

2. Defendant, Donald Peltier, is an individual, residing at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because he has been transacting business throughout Michigan.

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this Complaint because it includes a request for injunctive relief pursuant to MCR 3.310.

5. Ingham County is an appropriate venue for this action because it is the county in which the seat of state government is located, and the action is commenced by the Attorney General in the name and for the benefit of the People of the State of Michigan. MCL 600.1631.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Donald Peltier, created, operated, administered, controlled, or otherwise used around a half-dozen websites that falsely purported an affiliation with the Democratic Party, Republican Party, candidates thereof, or associated organizations, including but not limited to the following:

- a. DEMOCRATIC.WEBSITE,
- b. KAMALA-HARRIS.ORG,
- c. democraticnationalcommittee.co,

- d. NATIONALCOMMITTEE.DEMOCRAT,
- e. maf.democrat,
- f. REPUBLICANNATIONAL.NET,
- g. REPUBLICANNATIONALCOMMITTEE.NET,
- h. REPUBLICANNATIONALCOMMITTEE.ORG.

7. The above websites either had a donation tab or through links or redirects ended up at a website that had a donation tab.

8. Defendant sought to obtain donations through the website names.

9. Defendant used false "group" representations and used images of prominent Democratic party members on democraticnationalcommittee.co and maf.democrat to further the fraud:

- a. "Democrat"
- b. "Partner With Us"
- c. "We are eager to hear from you"
- d. "Help us to build a better tomorrow"
- e. "We need the help of volunteers like you."
- f. "We're counting on our best supporters like you to help us stand up to Trump and the Republicans"
- g. "We believe that cooperation is better than conflict"
- h. "The Democrat party has led the fight for LGBT rights, health care and workers' rights. We are the party of Joe Biden and FDR"
- i. "About Us" tab shows a picture of Chuck Schumer and prominent Democratic Party members.

10. Defendant used false “group” representations and used images of prominent Republican party members on republicannationalcommittee.org to further the fraud:

a. “Republican” or “Republicans”

b. “Show your Support ... Republicans are counting on your support to fight the Liberal agenda, hold the Democrats accountable, and support the America First agenda. We thank you for your generous contributions.”

c. “Contact us today and tell us what we can do to help you make a better tomorrow. We are eager to hear from you. Let us know your questions, suggestions and concerns by filling out the contact form below.”

d. “About Us” tab shows images of well-known Republican Party members.

11. Upon information and belief, Defendant makes other false statements on the websites to buttress (make more believable) his false representations of association:

a. “Copyright Progressive Media” and “Copyright 2024 Progressive Media”

b. “Paid for by the Progressive Media”

c. “© 2024 Conservative Media Group”

12. The Defendant obtained money from Michigan residents by use of donation tabs connected with some of the websites.

COUNT I — Money Had and Received

13. The Attorney General incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 12 as though fully set forth here.

14. Defendant solicited money from Michigan residents by using websites intended to mislead potential donors into believing they were donating to a political party, candidate, or associated or affiliated organization.

15. The Defendant's received a benefit from the donors and it would be inequitable for him to retain it.

COUNT II— Nuisance

16. The Attorney General incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 15 as though fully set forth here.

17. Under MCL 750.218(1), it is illegal for a person to obtain money under false pretenses. Through the websites described in this Complaint, Defendant obtained payments under false pretenses from Michigan residents within the meaning of this statute.

18. Further, it is illegal to attempt to commit a crime under MCL 750.92.

19. The Defendant's scheme of obtaining money by way of false internet solicitations harms the People of the State of Michigan.

20. Through the violations of MCL 750.218, and MCL 750.92, Defendant engaged in an activity constituting a common law nuisance. The Attorney General has broad authority to bring a civil action enjoining such nuisances. *Attorney Gen v PowerPick Club*, 287 Mich App 13, 44 (2010) (citing *Attorney General, ex rel Optometry Bd of Examiners v Peterson*, 381 Mich 445, 465-466 (1969))

RELIEF REQUESTED

Accordingly, the Attorney General respectfully requests that this Court enter

an order granting the following relief:

a. Defendant should be permanently enjoined from making any solicitations to Michigan individuals or entities through mailings, electronic mail, internet transactions, telemarketing activities, or any other means, by way of false representations.

b. Defendant should be fined the maximum amount permitted under the law.

c. Defendant should be enjoined from retaining any funds received from Michigan individuals or entities, or otherwise be granted equitable relief in regards thereto.

d. The Attorney General should be awarded damages resulting from the Defendant's fraudulent misrepresentations, including disgorgement of all resulting revenues.

e. The Attorney General should be awarded her costs and attorney fees.

f. Any other relief the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Brien Winfield Heckman
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