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7  
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
10

11 ANTHONY JOHNSON, an individual,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 MANUEL ALTAMIRANO, an individual,  
15 RICHARD TURNER, an individual,  
16 DAVID KINNEY, an individual,  
17 DAVID HUFFMAN, an individual,  
18 PAUL TYRELL, an individual,  
19 SEAN SULLIVAN, an individual,  
20 STORIX, INC., a California Corporation,  
and DOES 1-5, inclusive,

21 *Defendants.*  
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23  
24  
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Case No. 3:19-cv-1185-H-BLM

**PLAINTIFF'S MEMORANDUM OF  
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES ISO  
OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO  
DISMISS OF DEFENDANTS  
TYRELL AND SULLIVAN**

Hearing Date: October 7, 2019

Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Marilyn L. Huff

Dept.: Courtroom I 5A

Complaint Filed: June 24, 2019

Trial Date: Not Set

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Plaintiff Anthony Johnson respectfully submits this Opposition to the *Motion*  
3 *to Dismiss* (hereafter “Motion”) submitted by Defendants Paul Tyrell and Sean  
4 Sullivan (hereafter “Defendants”) pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. § 12(b)(6) for failure to  
5 state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

6 References are herein made to the lawsuit underlying the malicious  
7 prosecution claim, San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2015-00028262-CU-BT-  
8 CTL (hereafter “Direct Suit”). Johnson herein incorporates his concurrently-filed  
9 request for judicial notice (hereafter “RJN”). For clarity and consistency with their  
10 concurrent motions and filings, Johnson herein incorporates Storix’s and Attorney-  
11 Defendants request for judicial notice in support of their Motion (hereafter “Storix  
12 RJN”). The complaint in this action (ECF No. 1) is hereafter referenced as  
13 “Complaint”.

14 Defendants again engage in their usual tactics of personal character attacks  
15 and misconstruing facts in order to paint Johnson a villain for attempting to protect  
16 his rights and defend himself from their persistent legal abuse. Johnson will not  
17 respond to the same false allegations, misconstrued evidence and distorted  
18 procedural history asserted in Defendants’ Motion knowing it will only be repeated  
19 in their next pleadings. Such comments are both inappropriate and irrelevant to a  
20 motion to dismiss.

21 Defendants make no effort to show probable cause for using Johnson’s own  
22 company and his own money to file a lawsuit against him, that their claim is  
23 anything more than baseless, or why they did so without notice and on the morning  
24 of a settlement conference. Instead, they rely on ambiguous statements in irrelevant  
25 cases and prior rulings expecting Johnson will be unable to adequately respond now  
26 that their actions rendered him unable to afford legal counsel. They are mistaken.  
27 Their efforts to prevent Johnson from bringing this action after their years of legal  
28 harassment are futile. Johnson properly pled all elements of malicious prosecution,

1 including favorable termination of the underlying lawsuit they brought against him.  
2 Their attempt to use a trivial claim to prevent Johnson from asserting favorable  
3 termination must fail because the trivial claim they introduced in closing arguments  
4 to salvage their flailing lawsuit is severable from that determination. Defendants'  
5 attempts to distort the record and interpret ambiguous rulings to show probable  
6 cause are equally unavailing.

7 Johnson's Complaint sufficiently pleads facts that satisfy all elements of  
8 malicious prosecution, as well as facts that defeat Defendants' affirmative defenses.  
9 This Court should deny Defendants' Motion and order Defendants to finally answer  
10 Johnson's Complaint.

## 11 **II. BACKGROUND FACTS**

12 Johnson's Complaint provides sufficient facts to satisfy all elements of a  
13 malicious prosecution action, including facts to defeat Defendants' defense on the  
14 ground that the underlying Janstor Action did not terminate in Johnson's favor.

## 15 **III. ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITIES**

### 16 **A. Legal Standard for Motions to Dismiss**

17 Dismissal for failure to state a claim under Fed.R.Civ.P. § 12(b)(6) is a  
18 disfavored remedy and may only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. (*Broam*  
19 *v. Bogan*, 320 F.3d 1023 (9th Cir. 2003); *United States v. Redwood*, 640 F.2d 963,  
20 966 (9th Cir. 1981).) On this motion, all allegations of material fact must be  
21 accepted as true and construed in the light most favorable to Plaintiff. (*Cahill v.*  
22 *Liberty Mut. Ins. Co.*, 80 F.3d 336, 337-8 (9th Cir. 1996); *In re Silicon Graphics,*  
23 *Inc. Sec Litig.*, 183 F.3d 970, 983 (9th Cir. 1999).) The Court must also draw all  
24 reasonable inferences in favor of the non-moving party. (*Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S.  
25 662, 668 (2009); *Matsushita Elec. Industrial Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S.  
26 574, 587 (1986).) If this Court finds the Complaint inadequate, it should "freely give  
27 leave to amend when there is no undue delay, bad faith, dilatory motive, undue  
28

1 prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of... the amendment, [or] futility of the  
2 amendment.” (Fed.R.Civ.P. § 15(a); *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962).)

3 **B. The Requisite Elements of Malicious Prosecution**

4 Right out of the gate, Defendants attempt to mislead the Court by misquoting  
5 the first case, stating, “To *establish a claim* for malicious prosecution under  
6 California law, a plaintiff *must plead and prove* that the underlying action was: ... .”  
7 (Motion at p. 10, italics added.) The case cited, *Parrish v. Latham & Watkins* (2017)  
8 3 Cal.5th 767, 775, actually states, “The tort consists of three elements. *The*  
9 *underlying action must have been*: (i) initiated or maintained by, or at the direction  
10 of, the defendant, and pursued to a legal termination in favor of the malicious  
11 prosecution plaintiff; (ii) initiated or maintained without probable cause; and (iii)  
12 initiated or maintained with malice.” (*Id.* at 775.)

13 Defendants attempt to convince the Court that, to survive a motion to dismiss,  
14 a malicious prosecution plaintiff must “prove” all the elements. The allegations of  
15 the Complaint, taken as true, sufficiently state all elements of a malicious  
16 prosecution cause of action. Only if the Defendants provide evidence that defeat  
17 Johnson’s facts may the Court dismiss the cause of action. Defendants have  
18 provided no such showing.

19 **C. Johnson Has Established All the Elements of a Claim for**  
20 **Malicious Prosecution**

21 Johnson has sufficiently pled facts showing the Janstor Action was *initiated*  
22 *or maintained* with malice and without probable cause. Defendants attempt to rely  
23 on Storix’s successful claim not even pled in the litigation to preclude Johnson from  
24 establishing “legal termination in favor of the malicious prosecution plaintiff.” But  
25 Defendants ignore that their *initial* complaint couldn’t have included the claim  
26 because the act underlying the claim had not yet occurred.

27 //  
28 //

1                   **1. Johnson Obtained a Favorable Termination in the Underlying**  
2                   **Litigation**

3                   The only successful claim against Johnson was based entirely on an email  
4 Defendants claim Johnson sent to all Storix’s customers. Storix demanded \$3,739.14  
5 for “employees’ lost productivity” due to the “fallout” of Johnson’s email.  
6 (Complaint ¶ 27.) The claim is severable from the “entire lawsuit” when  
7 determining favorable termination because:

- 8                   (a) Defendants falsely alleged the event occurred when Johnson was living  
9                   in California (*Id.* ¶ 23);
- 10                  (b) The email didn’t exist until after the Direct Suit was filed (*Id.* ¶ 23);
- 11                  (c) The claim was not pled or asserted during the litigation (*Id.* ¶ 27);
- 12                  (d) The claim was based entirely on facts separate from Storix’s  
13                  unsuccessful claim on which the malicious prosecution action is based;
- 14                  (e) The claim could be brought in an independent action; and
- 15                  (f) The claim is pending appeal (Complaint ¶ 27, fn. 5).

16                  Defendants were notified in the Complaint that the claim was severed from  
17 the favorable termination determination. (*Id.*) As a result, they attempt to  
18 misconstrue cases that don’t address the severability of claims as ones that  
19 “disfavor” severability. It would do violence to Johnson’s right to petition if  
20 Defendants were allowed to use such a trivial claim to bar Johnson’s malicious  
21 prosecution action. Fortunately the “severability rule” is specifically designed to  
22 prevent plaintiffs and attorneys, as in this case, from asserting trivial claims to  
23 protect themselves from liability for frivolous and malicious lawsuits. No claim  
24 better meets the criteria for a severability from the “entire lawsuit” when pleading  
25 favorable termination.

26                  “[A] malicious prosecution plaintiff is not precluded from establishing  
27 favorable termination where severable claims are adjudicated in his or her favor.”  
28 (*Lanz v. Goldstone* (2015) 243 Cal.App.4th 441, 460 (citing *Sierra Club Foundation*



1 v. *Graham* (1999) 72 Cal.App.4th 1135, 1152-1153); See also *Tabaz v. Cal Fed*  
2 *Finance* (1994) 27 Cal.App.4th 789, 794 (*Tabaz*) (holding that a plaintiff may base a  
3 malicious prosecution claim on individual claims if the other claims are severable  
4 and not "simply different theories for recovering on the same injury".) The  
5 "severability rule" was created in *Paramount General Hospital Co. v. Jay* (1989)  
6 213 Cal.App.3d 360, based on the severability analysis in *Albertson v. Raboff* (1956)  
7 46 Cal.2d 375 (*Albertson*).

8 Defendants' arguments rely on *Lane v. Bell* (2018) 20 Cal.App.5th 61 (*Lane*)  
9 and its references to *Crowley v. Katleman* (1994) 8 Cal.4th 666 (*Crowley*). Neither  
10 case actually involved severable claims but nonetheless reference the severability of  
11 claims established by *Albertson*. Defendants state that "*Lane* rejected prior cases that  
12 held favorable termination could be based on a 'severable' claim." (Motion at p. 11.)  
13 This is not true. *Lane* noted the severability analysis in the cases it cited, which often  
14 found that favorable termination was not established because the underlying claims  
15 were not severable. Defendants' argument is nevertheless inapplicable because  
16 Johnson does not assert favorable termination *based on the severable claim* but  
17 based on those that are *not severable*. Defendants fail to understand that "[a] claim  
18 for malicious prosecution need not be addressed to an entire lawsuit; it may, as in  
19 this case, be based upon only some of the causes of action alleged in the underlying  
20 lawsuit." *Franklin Mint Co. v. Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP* (2010) 184  
21 Cal.App.4th 313, 333.) In *Paramount*, the court reversed a lack of favorable  
22 termination determination in finding "the fact that [defendant's] numerous claims  
23 may all be broadly deemed to be alleged breaches of fiduciary duty does not enable  
24 [defendant] to sidestep the severability rule... ." (*Id.* at 370.) The Defendants in this  
25 case attempt to do exactly that.

26 Defendants provide no authority that defeats severability of the claim in the  
27 Janstor Action because the cases they cite, which base favorable termination on the  
28 "entire lawsuit", don't involve severable claims, nor do they disapprove the

1 severability rule. Defendants’ argue that “*Lane* rejected prior cases” by making an  
2 ambiguous reference to *StaffPro, Inc. v. Elite Show Servs., Inc.* (2006) 136  
3 Cal.App.4th 1392, 1403 (*StaffPro*). (Motion at p. 11.) *StaffPro* didn’t disapprove  
4 severability, it just didn’t find favorable termination because “the underlying  
5 defendant did not prevail on every claim asserted in the underlying action ...  
6 because the judgment awarded affirmative relief to the underlying plaintiff[.]” (*Lane*  
7 at p. 74, underline added.) Storix’s only successful claim was never asserted in the  
8 underlying litigation (until closing arguments), and Storix was denied all eleven  
9 demands for injunctive relief based on all the facts – including the email on which  
10 Storix’s belated claim was based.

11 *Crowley* is the hallmark case on the “favorable termination” issue. “*Crowley*  
12 specifically approved *Freidberg's* conclusion there was *no* favorable termination  
13 under the facts of *Freidberg*.” (*Lane* at p. 75, underline added.) “[T]he action had  
14 evidently not terminated favorably to *Freidberg* because the judgment assessed  
15 substantial damages against him.” (*Ibid.*) Also, the *Friedberg* claims were not  
16 severable because “Reasonable value of services, joint venture and tortious  
17 interference were simply different theories for recovering on the same injury: the  
18 failure to share attorney fees.” (*Tabaz* at p. 794; citing *Freidberg v. Cox* (1987) 197  
19 Cal.App.3d 381, 388.) *Friedberg* expressly recognized, however, that the result  
20 would have been different had the causes of action been severable. (*Friedberg* at p.  
21 387-388.) *StaffPro* didn’t reject the severability rule, but rejected favorable  
22 termination because “[t]he trial court's order in the underlying action required  
23 *StaffPro* to take remedial action with respect to many of the core allegations[.]”  
24 (*StaffPro* at p. 694.) *Lane* and *StaffPro* properly found an absence of favorable  
25 termination under the facts of *Friedberg*. but Storix’s only successful claim was  
26 based on entirely different facts and theories and all demands for injunctive relief  
27 were denied.

1           Lastly, *Crowley* relies “exclusively on the settled rule that an appeal may be  
2 taken from only a portion of a judgment when that portion is ‘severable’ in the sense  
3 that the issues raised in the appeal can be resolved without regard to the issues  
4 determined by the portion of the judgment that was not appealed.” (*Crowley* at 387,  
5 citing, *inter alia*, *American Enterprise, Inc. v. Van Winkle* (1952) 39 Cal.2d 210,  
6 216-217.) The disposition of a separate and independent claim which is *not* appealed  
7 from may be considered final for the purposes of malicious litigation. (*Albertson* at  
8 p. 378.) Johnson is appealing the severable claim, thereby further severing it from  
9 the “entire lawsuit” and establishing favorable termination. Had Johnson not  
10 appealed the claim, he still would have established favorable termination since he  
11 directed the probable cause element of the malicious prosecution action to only the  
12 *non-severable* claim. (Complaint ¶¶ 39-40.)

13           Defendants statement that “A jury found Johnson breached his fiduciary duty  
14 to Storix. ... there is no way to interpret that finding other than an absence of  
15 innocence[.]” (Motion at p. 11.) They are mistaken because the entire judgment of  
16 breach of fiduciary duty is based on the severed claim. Their determination to use  
17 this trivial claim to prevent Johnson from showing favorable termination only  
18 further proves the maliciousness of the action.

19                           **2.   Johnson Has Established a Lack of Probable Cause for Storix’s**  
20                           **Claim Against Him**

21           "A claim for malicious prosecution need not be addressed to an entire lawsuit;  
22 it may ... be based upon only some of the causes of action alleged in the underlying  
23 lawsuit." (*Lane* at fn. 6.) “As our Supreme Court stated in *Singleton v. Perry* (1955)  
24 45 Cal.2d 489, 497 [289 P.2d 794], 'Indeed, it would seem almost a mockery to hold  
25 that, by uniting groundless accusations with those for which probable cause might  
26 exist, the defendants could thereby escape liability ....'" (*Tabaz* at p. 792, citing  
27 *Singleton v. Perry* (1955) 45 Cal.2d 489, 497; *Soukup v. Law Offices of Herbert*  
28 *Hafif* (2006) 39 Cal.4th 260, 292 [“An action for malicious prosecution lies when

1 but one of alternate theories of recovery is maliciously asserted”].) Johnson directed  
2 the cause of action only to Storix’s unsuccessful claim that Johnson was operating a  
3 competing business. (Complaint ¶¶ 39-40.) The fact that Storix prevailed on a  
4 different claim doesn’t establish probable cause for bringing or maintaining the  
5 malicious one.

6 "Where there is no dispute as to the facts upon which an attorney acted in  
7 filing the prior action, the question of whether there was probable cause to institute  
8 that action is purely legal." (*Ross v. Kish*, 51 Cal.Rptr.3d 484, 495.) "[T]he probable  
9 cause element calls on the trial court to make an objective determination of the  
10 'reasonableness' of the defendant's conduct, i.e., to determine whether, on the basis  
11 of the facts known to the defendant, the institution of the prior action was legally  
12 tenable,' as opposed to whether the litigant subjectively believed the claim was  
13 tenable." (*Parrish v. Latham & Watkin* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 767, 776 (*Parrish*)). "The  
14 elements of a cause of action for breach of fiduciary duty are the existence of a  
15 fiduciary relationship, breach of fiduciary duty, and damages." (*Oasis West Realty,*  
16 *LLC v. Goldman* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 811, 820.) Even the second amended complaint  
17 alleged no harm related to its claim of a competing business. (Complaint ¶ 38.) It  
18 also repeats false allegations Defendants knew not to be true, without which they  
19 could not have brought the lawsuit at all. (*Id.*) Based on the allegations of the  
20 Complaint, accepted as true, Defendants instituted and maintained the claim  
21 knowing it was untenable.

22 Defendants misrepresent that the “interim adverse judgment rule” applies to  
23 denials of demurrers and summary judgment motions that don’t address the merits  
24 of a claim. First, they generally refer to the court denying demurrers to the Janstor  
25 Action, finding the complaint was sufficiently *pled*. The rule is not invoked on a  
26 denial of demurrer since the court doesn’t address the merits. Similarly, denial of  
27 summary judgment may be considered an adverse judgment only if the court found  
28 there were disputable facts based on the merits of the action. *Crowley, supra*, 8

1 Cal.4th at p. 692, declined to apply the interim adverse judgment rule to a summary  
2 judgment motion, finding that “the denial of Crowley's motion for summary  
3 adjudication of issues as to all grounds except lack of due execution was not a  
4 judgment on the merits for that purpose.”

5 Defendants fail to explain how denial of summary judgment in the Direct Suit  
6 establishes probable cause. “[I]f a claim succeeds at a hearing on the merits, then,  
7 unless that success has been procured by certain improper means, the claim cannot  
8 be ‘totally and completely without merit.’ [Citation.]” (*Parrish* at p. 776, underlines  
9 added.) The only issue addressed by the court was whether Storix had “standing to  
10 bring this suit” given the fraudulent act of ratification by which Defendants  
11 attempted to escape liability. (Storix RJN, Ex. 16 at p. 200.) The court didn’t address  
12 any claims of the Direct Suit, finding only that “[i]t is disputed whether this  
13 ratification and authorization is sufficient.” (*Ibid.*) Whether the lawsuit was properly  
14 approved is irrelevant because Defendants aren’t being sued for not obtaining proper  
15 approval.

16 The case cited by Defendants further defeats their argument. “[E]ven where a  
17 ruling is based on the court's evaluation of the merits of the claim, the ruling does  
18 not establish the existence of probable cause if the ruling is ‘shown to have been  
19 obtained by fraud or perjury.’” (*Parrish* at p. 778; citing *Wilson v. Parker, Covert &*  
20 *Chidester* (2002) 28 Cal.4th 811, 817.) As noted above, the Complaint alleges  
21 perjury (Complaint ¶¶ 18, 23, 40), without which Storix would have no standing and  
22 thus *no* favorable rulings, and Defendants do not *do not dispute* those allegations.  
23 Notably, “[I]f denial of summary judgment was induced by materially false facts  
24 submitted in opposition, equating denial with probable cause might be wrong.  
25 Summary judgment might have been granted but for the false evidence.” (*Antounian*  
26 *v. Louis Vuitton Malletier* (2010) 189 Cal. App. 4th 438, 451, underline added.)

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1 That is exactly what Defendants did.<sup>1</sup>

2 Defendants refer to two state court rulings in their attempt to establish  
3 probable cause. Their argument again fails due to the fact that Johnson need only  
4 establish lack of probable cause in bringing the unsuccessful claim that he was  
5 competing with Storix, not the entire lawsuit. Furthermore, Johnson has established  
6 malicious prosecution if the Janstor Action was *initiated* without probable cause.  
7 Defendants attempt to rely on the fact that Storix’s successful claim precludes  
8 Johnson from establishing favorable termination, but ignore that the *initial*  
9 complaint was filed before the severable claim had even accrued.

10 First, Defendants cite a state court’s finding that “[t]he evidence supports that  
11 Johnson breached his fiduciary duty to Storix.” (Storix RJN, Exs. 21, 23.) The jury  
12 found Johnson breached a fiduciary duty by sending an email, from which Storix  
13 added a claim of “employees’ loss of productivity.” (Complaint ¶ 27.) Not only is  
14 the malicious prosecution action directed to a different claim, that email didn’t even  
15 exist when Defendants filed the Janstor Action. (Complaint ¶ 23; RJN, Ex. 4.)  
16 Defendants admitted the judgment was “solely based” on “employee time associated  
17 with dealing with the fallout” of the email. (Complaint ¶ 27; RJN, Ex. 9 at p. 61.)  
18 The state court’s comments regarding “evidence” pertains only to Johnson’s “breach  
19 of fiduciary duty” by sending the email, not the claim *actually asserted* in the  
20 Janstor Action complaint subject to this malicious prosecution action.

21 Second, Defendants by misquoting a prior court, saying it “expressly [found]  
22 Storix pursued the case against Johnson in ‘good faith’.” (Motion at p. 15.) The  
23 court “expressly” found no such thing. Defendants omit that the court’s comment  
24

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25 <sup>1</sup> Johnson argued the board didn’t approve the lawsuit before it was filed and  
26 that Defendants couldn’t ratify it two years later because they were not disinterested.  
27 Storix argued that it was ratified by a majority of board members, but wouldn’t say  
28 which ones. Summary judgment was denied because Johnson didn’t specifically  
identify the directors who ratified the lawsuit in his motion.

1 related to an award of costs to Storix as a prevailing party in the entire action. The  
2 court made no reference to the underlying claims or that it *agreed* the claims were  
3 brought “in good faith.” The court stated only that “Storix reasonably and in good  
4 faith brought an unlimited civil action against Johnson believing that the ultimate  
5 recovery would exceed the limited jurisdictional limit.” (Storix RJN, Ex. 24.) The  
6 comment was extraneous to the court’s ruling, and the ruling has no relevance to this  
7 action. Whether Defendants believed “in good faith” they could obtain a larger  
8 amount from Johnson is immaterial. Defendants likely brought the action expecting  
9 Johnson to *settle* for a greater amount regardless of whether it was brought with  
10 probable cause. For a court’s finding to be considered an “adverse judgment”, it  
11 must be a *judgment* that reflects on the merits of the claim at issue.

12 As demonstrated in the next section, the Complaint is ripe with undisputed  
13 facts that clearly establish Defendants lacked probable cause in initiating *and*  
14 maintaining the Janstor Action. The facts need only state all elements of the cause of  
15 action, and Defendants produce no evidence or authority to defeat those facts.

### 16 **3. *Johnson Properly Asserted Improper Motive Driving the*** 17 ***Litigation Against Him***

18 Cases cited by Defendants pertain to motions requiring a plaintiff *prove*  
19 malicious intent. Johnson has sufficiently *pled* all elements of malicious prosecution,  
20 which is all that’s required to defeat a motion to dismiss. The Complaint is far from  
21 “boilerplate” and also asserts sufficient facts for Defendants to defend the claim.

22 “Although lack of probable cause alone does not automatically equate to a  
23 finding of malice, it is a factor that may be considered.” (*Ross v. Kish, supra*, 51  
24 Cal.Rptr. at 497.) “[M]alice may still be inferred when a party knowingly brings an  
25 action without probable cause. [Citations.]” (*Ibid.*, quoting *Swat-Fame, Inc. v.*  
26 *Goldstein*, 101 Cal.App.4th 613, 634, italics omitted.)

27 The “malicious” element of malicious prosecution is satisfied if the case was  
28 *initiated or maintained* with malicious intent. (*Parrish v. Latham, supra*, 3 Cal.5th at

1 p. 775.) The facts of the Complaint, regarded as true, establish the Janstor Action  
2 was initiated *and* maintained with malicious intent. (Complaint ¶¶ 39-40.)  
3 Defendants filed the Janstor Action hours before a settlement conference in the  
4 copyright case (Complaint ¶ 17.) The complaint alleged no harm (Complaint ¶ 38)  
5 and falsely alleged Johnson resided and events therein occurred in San Diego.  
6 (Complaint ¶ 18.) The Janstor Action didn't seek recovery from harm, but was  
7 intended to *cause* harm as “demonstrated by their callous indifference or wanton  
8 disregard for Johnson's rights and the extreme financial burden their conduct was  
9 causing.” (Complaint ¶ 42.)

10 Malice is also established by Defendants maintaining the Janstor Action  
11 without probable cause, as evidenced by their amending the complaint nine months  
12 after it was filed (to avoid a demurrer) but still falsely alleging Johnson resided and  
13 events therein occurred in San Diego. (Complaint ¶ 23.) Defendants continued to  
14 assert Johnson was operating a competing business knowing the allegation was false  
15 and possessing no evidence to support the claim. (Complaint ¶¶ 24, 40.) Malicious  
16 intent is further evidenced by Defendants using the *existence* of the Janstor Action to  
17 assist the other defendants in concealing their misconduct. (Complaint ¶ 46, 51.)  
18 Throughout the Complaint are allegations of Defendants taking legal actions to  
19 prevent Johnson from obtaining Storix's financial records. (Complaint ¶¶ 30, 32,  
20 50.) Most significant is the fact that the other defendants refused to dismiss the  
21 Janstor Action unless Johnson agreed to sell Storix and use his share of the proceeds  
22 to pay the legal debts owed to the Defendants. (Complaint ¶ 25.)

23 Johnson alleges more than sufficient facts to support the “malice” element of  
24 malicious prosecution. Defendants neither dispute these facts nor provide any  
25 evidence to the contrary.

26 //

27 //

28 //



1           **D.    The *Rooker-Feldman* Doctrine is Inapplicable Because There**  
2           **Are No State Court Judgments Relevant to Their Motion**

3           Defendants’ argument that Johnson is attempting to challenge state court  
4 rulings is unsupported by the Complaint or any such rulings, and Defendants provide  
5 no reference to the record to support their argument. Johnson does not challenge nor  
6 request this Court ignore any rulings.

- 7           (a)    Johnson does not assert Storix was not entitled to a judgment of  
8           \$3,739.14.
- 9           (b)    Johnson does not challenge the state court’s ruling that an “abundance”  
10           of evidence supported the \$3,739.14 judgment.
- 11           (c)    Johnson does not challenge a ruling that Storix was authorized to  
12           pursue the direct claim against him.
- 13           (d)    Johnson does not challenge that Storix was the prevailing party.
- 14           (e)    Johnson does not challenge a ruling that Storix pursued its claims  
15           against Johnson in good faith because no court made such a ruling.

16           First, the “\$3,739 judgment” was based on a different claim than the one this  
17 malicious prosecution cause of action is directed to. Therefore, references to the  
18 judgment are immaterial. Second, the statements referred to were not “rulings” but  
19 comments in orders immaterial to the ruling. Third, Defendants misrepresent the  
20 court’s comments by extracting a few words to intentionally misconstrue their  
21 meaning as well as the issue they refer to.

22           For Defendants’ argument to have merit, a ruling of this Court on an issue  
23 must negate a prior state court ruling, or the prior ruling must have preclusive effect  
24 on an issue to be determined by this Court. Defendants identified no such issues.

25           **IV.    CONCLUSION**

26           The Complaint states sufficient facts to support each element of malicious  
27 prosecution, including facts that defeat each of Defendants’ affirmative defenses.  
28 Defendants provided no evidence, arguments or authority to support their contention

1 that Johnson's cause of action for malicious prosecution fails as a matter of law.  
2 Furthermore, Defendants attempt to take advantage of a self-represented litigant by  
3 misapplying law, distorting the record, and misquoting evidence, prior rulings and  
4 case precedents. Defendants bring baseless arguments and concurrent duplicative  
5 motions to cause delay and inflict additional burden on Johnson. As such, Johnson  
6 request that the Court impose sanctions to deter such misconduct in the future.

7 For all the foregoing reasons, the Court should deny Defendants' motion to  
8 dismiss Johnson's complaint and require defendants Paul Tyrell and Sean Sullivan  
9 to answer without further delay.

10  
11 DATED: September 12, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

12  
13 By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY JOHNSON, In Pro Per

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I, the undersigned certify and declare as follows:

3 I am over the age of eighteen years and self-represented in this action. My address is 1728  
4 Griffith Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada, which is located in the county where the service described  
5 below took place.

6 On September 12, 2019 from my address in Las Vegas, Nevada, I served a copy of the  
7 following document(s):

- 8 **1. PLAINTIFF'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES ISO  
9 OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS OF DEFENDANTS TYRELL AND  
10 SULLIVAN**

11 by depositing the document(s) in a sealed envelope with the U.S. Postal Service. The undersigned  
12 hereby certifies that he caused a copy of the foregoing document(s) to be delivered to the Clerk of  
13 the U.S District Court, Southern District of California, by thereby mail.

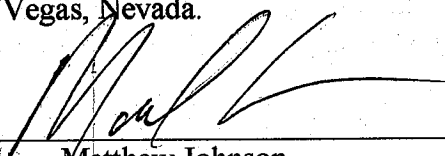
14 The undersigned also certifies that the following recipients have consented to service by email and  
15 have been delivered a copy of the document(s) by sending to the email addresses listed below:

16 Marty B. Ready  
17 Michael P. McCloskey  
18 WILSON ELSER MOSKOWITZ EDELMAN  
19 & DICKER, LLP  
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San Diego, CA 92101  
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(Attorney for Defendants Altamirano,  
Turner, Kinney & Huffman)

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Tel: (619) 619.238.1900  
(Defendants, Attorneys for corporate defendant,  
Storix, Inc.)

20 I certify and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of  
21 American and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

22 Executed on September 12, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

23  
24 By:   
25 Matthew Johnson