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'Sugar baby' ordered to pay ex \$7.6M

Woman posted false claims of rape, child molestation online

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An alleged "sugar baby" was hit with a \$7.6 million default judgment for engaging in an extensive campaign to ruin an ex-boyfriend's life.

In a written order this week, U.S. District Judge Charles P. Kocoras directed Jessica Jiahui Lee to pay \$2.6 million in compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages to the former boyfriend.

The boyfriend — who filed his lawsuit against Lee as a John Doe — is a Chicago businessman working in the consulting industry.

Kocoras found Lee created fake social media accounts in Doe's name and published defamatory and highly offensive content directly to hundreds of Doe's friends, relatives, clients, bosses and professional associates.

Lee also slipped into Doe's secure apartment building behind an unsuspecting resident and vandalized Doe's car, Kocoras wrote.

And he wrote Lee continued to defame and harass Doe even after he sued her in February 2018.

Kocoras wrote Lee's actions caused great harm to Doe's reputation.

"The publication of defamatory content to any third party can be detrimental to one's reputation; however, the deliberation, effort and unyielding malice shown by defendant, Ms. Lee, to ruin plaintiff's reputation is staggering," Kocoras wrote in his order Monday.

Doe's attorney, Ryan B. Jacobson of SmithAmundsen LLC, said he is pleased with the judgment and the amount of damages awarded.

"The award of punitive damages will hopefully send a firm message to Ms. Lee that her behavior will not be tolerated under the law," Jacobson said in a statement.

"It is also a testament to the public's growing disdain for those who exploit the internet to assassinate someone's character and standing within their community."

Lee, who lists an address in Plano, Texas, currently represents herself in the case. She could not be reached for comment.

Doe says he met Lee in February 2017 when he traveled to Las Vegas for business and began dating her the following month.

He was in his mid-40s, Doe says, while Lee told him she was 25 years old and working for a consulting company.

But he later discovered Lee

was a 19-year-old "exotic dancer" and professional "sugar baby," Doe contends.

He contends he discovered Lee engaged in relationships in which she traded sex for expensive jewelry and clothes and trips to resorts around the world.

Lee began harassing him after he ended their relationship in September 2017, Doe alleges.

In addition to her other acts of harassment, he alleges, Lee falsely accused him on her Instagram account of raping her.

Lee also created a Craigslist account falsely accusing him of raping her nonexistent 9-year-old daughter and offering a \$1,000 reward to anyone who could locate him, Doe alleges.

His lawsuit included counts of defamation per se, public disclosure of private facts, invasion of privacy by placing him in a false light and both intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

The suit also included counts of vandalism and tortious interference with business expectancy.

In her answer to Doe's suit in April 2018, Lee denied some of his allegations and invoked her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination against the others.

In late January, Lee's attorneys filed a motion to withdraw from the case. Kocoras

granted the motion two weeks later.

Last week, Doe filed an affidavit attesting to the allegations in his suit.

He alleges Lee "has distributed an endless stream of defamatory images and text via social media to almost every individual I know" since September 2017.

"These posts have done irreparable harm to my personal and professional reputation," Doe maintains in the affidavit. "Ms. Lee's actions have changed my life, changed how everyone I know sees me and her actions have forever branded me as a subject of ridicule and derision."

Doe in the affidavit also contends he has spent more than \$60,000 in legal fees battling the harassment.

In his statement, Jacobson said Doe will continue to pursue the case.

"My client and I will exhaust the remedies available to enforce the judgment against Lee, who has continued to post false and debilitating statements about Doe on social media as recently as January," Jacobson said.

"The financial consequences of Lee's actions will soon become very real in the otherwise make-believe world she inhabits online."

The case is *John Doe v. Jessica Jiahui Lee*, No. 18 C 1193. pmanson@lawbulletinmedia.com