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7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

9 Arizona Democratic Party,
10
11 Plaintiffs,
12 v.
13 Arizona Republican Party, Donald J. Trump
for President, Inc., Roger J. Stone, Jr., and
14 Stop the Steal, Inc.,
15 Defendants.

No. _____

**VOTER INTIMIDATION
COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO
THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF
1965 AND THE KU KLUX KLAN
ACT OF 1871**

16
17 Plaintiff Arizona Democratic Party hereby alleges as follows:

18 **INTRODUCTION**

19
20 1. The campaign of Donald J. Trump (the “Trump Campaign”), Trump’s close
21 advisor Roger J. Stone, Jr., Stone’s organization Stop the Steal Inc., the Arizona
22 Republican Party (“ARP”), and others are conspiring to threaten, intimidate, and thereby
23 prevent minority voters in urban neighborhoods from voting in the 2016 election. The
24 presently stated goal of the Trump Campaign, as explained by an unnamed official to
25 Bloomberg News on October 27, is to depress voter turnout—in the official’s words: “We
26 have three major voter suppression operations under way” that target Latinos, African
27 Americans, and other groups of voters. While the official discussed communications
28

1 strategies designed to decrease interest in voting, it has also become clear in recent weeks
2 that Trump has sought to advance his campaign's goal of "voter suppression" by using the
3 loudest microphone in the nation to implore his supporters to engage in unlawful
4 intimidation at Arizona polling places. Trump's exhortations have been amplified by
5 direct and tacit assistance from the ARP and Stone, who helped pioneer similar tactics in
6 the 1980s before those efforts were blocked by the federal courts. All have sought to
7 organize, fund, and assist Trump's supporters to carry out Trump's goals. And Trump's
8 supporters have responded with pledges to descend upon polling places in "certain areas"
9 where many minority voters live in order to interfere with their efforts to exercise the
10 franchise.

11 2. In the aftermath of previous voter suppression efforts in our history, Congress
12 responded forcefully by enacting laws that unequivocally prohibit voter intimidation. In
13 the 1870s, in response to threats of political violence and harassment against former slaves
14 and their white supporters by the newly formed Ku Klux Klan, Congress banned private
15 conspiracies to intimidate or threaten voters. In the 1960s, in response to the menacing of
16 African Americans who sought their full rights at the ballot box, Congress prohibited any
17 threats or intimidation against any and all persons engaged in the democratic process.

18 3. Voter intimidation is especially pernicious when it is condoned or encouraged by a
19 candidate or political party. The Republican National Committee ("RNC") recognized the
20 dangers and illegality of party-sponsored efforts to intimidate voters in resolving a 1981
21 lawsuit alleging that it "enlisted the help of off-duty sheriffs and police officers to
22 intimidate voters by standing at polling places in minority precincts during voting with
23 'National Ballot Security Task Force' armbands" and visible firearms, in violation of the
24 Voting Rights Act of 1965. *Democratic Nat'l Comm. v. Republican Nat'l Comm.*, 673
25 F.3d 192, 196 (3d Cir. 2012). In a 1982 Consent Decree settling that lawsuit, the RNC
26 and the New Jersey Republican State Committee agreed, *inter alia*, to:

- 27 a. "as a first resort, use established statutory procedures for challenging
28 unqualified voters";

- 1 b. “comply with all applicable state and federal laws protecting the rights of duly
2 qualified citizens to vote for the candidate(s) of their choice”;
- 3 c. “refrain from giving any directions to or permitting their employees to
4 campaign within restricted polling areas or to interrogate prospective voters as
5 to their qualifications to vote prior to their entry to a polling place”;
- 6 d. “refrain from undertaking any ballot security activities in polling places or
7 election districts where the racial or ethnic composition of such districts is a
8 factor in the decision to conduct, or the actual conduct of, such activities there
9 and where a purpose or significant effect of such activities is to deter qualified
10 voters from voting”; and
- 11 e. “refrain from having private personnel deputized as law enforcement personnel
12 in connection with ballot security activities.”

13 *Id.* at 196-97 (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).

14 4. The Consent Decree has been updated, affirmed against challenge, and enforced by
15 several courts, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. *See id.* at 220.
16 In rejecting the RNC’s 2009 request that the Consent Decree be set aside, the District
17 Court for the District of New Jersey held that “[v]oter intimidation presents an ongoing
18 threat to the participation of minority individuals in the political process, and continues to
19 pose a far greater danger to the integrity of that process than the type of voter fraud the
20 RNC is prevented from addressing by the Decree.” *Democratic Nat’l Comm. v.*
21 *Republican Nat’l Comm.*, 671 F. Supp. 2d 575, 578-79 (D.N.J. 2009), *aff’d*, 673 F.3d 192
22 (3d Cir. 2012). On October 26, 2016, citing the RNC’s coordination with the Trump
23 Campaign’s voter intimidation efforts, the Democratic National Committee moved to hold
24 the RNC in contempt of the Consent Decree. *See Democratic Nat’l Comm. v. Republican*
25 *Nat’l Comm.*, No. 81-cv-3876 (JMV), Dkt. No. 95 (D.N.J. Oct. 26, 2016).

26 5. In this action, Plaintiff alleges Defendants’ coordinated campaign of vigilante voter
27 intimidation also violates the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 and the Voting Rights Act of
28 1965.

1 “rigged” election to organize and recruit poll watchers to harass and intimidate perceived
2 Democratic voters on Election Day. Stop the Steal Inc. is headquartered at 3843 South
3 Bristol Street, Suite 312, Santa Ana, California.

4 11. Defendant Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. (the “Trump Campaign”) is the
5 campaign of Donald J. Trump for the presidency of the United States. The Trump
6 Campaign is headquartered at 725 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

7
8 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9 12. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331
10 because this action arises under federal law, specifically Section 2 of the Ku Klux Klan
11 Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3), and Section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52
12 U.S.C. § 10307(b).

13 13. Personal jurisdiction exists over Stone, Stop the Steal Inc., and the Trump
14 Campaign because Defendants caused and/or will cause harm or tortious injury by an act
15 or omission in this State or directed to this State. *See* Ariz. R. Civ. P. 4.2; *Meyers v.*
16 *Hamilton Corp.*, 143 Ariz. 249, 251-52 (1984).

17 14. The Arizona Democratic Party has standing in this action because it is supporting
18 many candidates for office in the election to be held on November 8, 2016, including
19 Democratic candidates in the Presidential, Senate, House, and numerous statewide
20 elections. The Party is threatened with immediate and irreparable injury if the vigilante
21 voter intimidation campaign by Trump, Stone, and their co-conspirators succeeds in
22 disrupting or changing the results of the election by means of an unlawful conspiracy.
23 The Arizona Democratic Party has standing on behalf of itself and its members.

24 15. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because significant
25 events giving rise to this action occurred in this district.

26 16. The allegations herein justify immediate temporary relief in order to prevent
27 irreparable harm. An injunction against the Trump Campaign and its co-conspirators’
28

1 planned intimidation tactics is the only way to protect thousands of Arizona voters from
2 harassment, threats, or intimidation that could discourage them from voting in the
3 upcoming election.

4 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

5 **CONGRESS REGULATES VOTER INTIMIDATION FOR OVER A CENTURY** 6 **IN RESPONSE TO POLLING PLACE VIGILANTISM**

7 17. The Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 (the “Klan Act”) was the last of the Enforcement
8 Acts—legislation passed during Reconstruction to protect the suffrage rights of newly
9 freed slaves, including by protecting them and their supporters from violence and
10 harassment. President Grant requested the legislation in order to empower him to stamp
11 out the first generation of the Ku Klux Klan, which Congress granted within a month of
12 the request.

13 18. The Klan Act, as currently codified in 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3), provides for damages
14 and equitable relief “if two or more persons conspire to prevent by force, intimidation, or
15 threat, any citizen who is lawfully entitled to vote, from giving his support or advocacy in
16 a legal manner, toward or in favor of . . . an elector for President or Vice President, or as a
17 Member of Congress of the United States; or to injure any citizen in person or property on
18 account of such support or advocacy.” The Act further provides that an action will lie
19 against the conspirators so long as “one or more persons engaged” in the conspiracy “do,
20 or cause to be done, any act in furtherance of the object of such conspiracy.” As the
21 Supreme Court made clear in *Ex parte Yarbrough*, 110 U.S. 651 (1884), the constitutional
22 basis for this broad provision—whose text requires no showing of racial intent or animus,
23 only a conspiracy to intimidate voters—is the Constitution’s Elections Clause.

24 19. Nearly a century later, in 1965, Congress again invoked its broad Elections Clause
25 power to protect the franchise. Responding to numerous instances of intimidation in both
26 elections and registration efforts in the Jim Crow South, including the killing of black and
27 white activists seeking to register African Americans to vote, Congress passed Section
28 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act. Section 11(b) prohibits actual or attempted

1 “intimidation,” “threats,” or “coercion” against a person, either “for voting or attempting
2 to vote” or “for urging or aiding any person to vote or attempt to vote.” Section 11(b)
3 authorizes private suits against private actors, even in the absence of any action by a state
4 or state official.

5 20. Congress has thus enacted two broad statutes to prevent voter intimidation. As
6 courts have made clear, it violates Section 11(b) to follow voters around, stand behind
7 them taking notes, follow them into the parking lot, or loudly discuss voter fraud laws in
8 their presence. *See, e.g.*, Temporary Restraining Order, *Daschle v. Thune*, No. 04-cv-
9 4177, Dkt. No. 6 (D.S.D. Nov. 2, 2004) (entering a Temporary Restraining Order
10 prohibiting a Republican Senate candidate and his supporters from continuing to “follow[]
11 Native Americans from the polling places,” “copy the license plates of Native Americans
12 driving to the polling places” and record “the license plates of Native Americans driving
13 away from the polling places”). Invasions of physical space and intimations of possible
14 future violence, prosecution, or legal action based on a voter’s presence at the polls
15 constitute unlawful voter intimidation. And even as to those persons who do not directly
16 participate in those activities, the Klan Act makes it unlawful to conspire with others to
17 promote, organize, and facilitate those efforts.

18
19 **TRUMP AND STONE ISSUE A CALL TO INTIMIDATE VOTERS IN THE 2016**
20 **ELECTION ON THE BASIS OF BOGUS CLAIMS OF VOTER FRAUD**

21 21. In the months leading up to the 2016 election, Trump has made an escalating
22 series of statements, often racially tinged, suggesting that his supporters should go to
23 particular precincts on Election Day and intimidate voters—and that if they do not do so,
24 he will lose the election because certain people, in certain precincts, will vote “15 times”
25 for Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton.

26 22. For example, Trump told a crowd in Altoona, Pennsylvania, in August that “I
27 hope you people can . . . not just vote on the 8th, [but also] go around and look and watch
28 other polling places and make sure that it’s 100-percent fine. We’re going to watch

1 Pennsylvania—go down to certain areas and watch and study—[and] make sure other
2 people don't come in and vote five times. . . . The only way we can lose, in my opinion—
3 and I really mean this, Pennsylvania—is if cheating goes on.”

4 23. In a speech ten days later in Ohio, Trump explained that he did not just mean that
5 supporters should “watch”: “You’ve got to get everybody to go out and watch, and go out
6 and vote,” Trump said. “And when [I] say ‘watch,’ you know what I’m talking about,
7 right?” Trump has explained that his “watchers” should act in a capacity similar to law
8 enforcement, even though they will not in fact be acting in a law-enforcement capacity.
9 In other words, Trump is encouraging his supporters to act as vigilantes.

10 24. In the midst of these comments, the Trump Campaign rolled out a form on its
11 website for supporters to sign up to be “Trump Election Observers” in order to “Stop
12 Crooked Hillary From Rigging This Election!”

13 25. Trump has specifically encouraged his supporters who work in law enforcement
14 to use their official authority to assist in “watching” Democratic-leaning communities.
15 For example, he stated at the Altoona rally in August that to protect against supposed
16 voter fraud, “[w]e have to call up law enforcement” and “we have to have the sheriffs and
17 the police chiefs and everybody watching.”

18 26. Trump’s exhortations have grown more ominous and specific as the election
19 draws closer. At an October 1 rally in Manheim, Pennsylvania, for example, Trump
20 instructed his supporters to “go check out [other] areas because a lot of bad things happen,
21 and we don’t want to lose for that reason.” Trump and Trump Campaign surrogates have
22 told supporters that voters of color should be suspected of fraud. Trump has suggested
23 that Latino voters are undocumented immigrants whom the federal government has
24 allowed to “pour into this country” specifically to vote in the election. And in a nationally
25 televised interview on October 16, former New York City Mayor and Trump surrogate
26 Rudy Giuliani expressed that voter fraud is concentrated in predominantly minority
27 communities in “inner cities” that support “Democrats,” like “Philadelphia and Chicago.”
28

1 27. While speaking in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, on October 11, Trump warned that it
2 is “[s]o important that you watch other communities”—which, he clarified, meant
3 Philadelphia—“because we don’t want this election stolen from us And everybody
4 knows what I’m talking about.” Trump was referring in particular to stories he had
5 circulated earlier in the summer about Philadelphia precincts comprised nearly exclusively
6 of African-American voters in which Mitt Romney received no votes in 2012. At that
7 same rally, a prominent Trump supporter, U.S. Representative Bill Shuster, made clear
8 that Trump supporters should focus their voter intimidation in Philadelphia, stating: “The
9 people in Western and Central Pennsylvania have to overcome what goes on down in
10 Philadelphia—the cheating.” Another prominent Trump supporter, former Speaker of the
11 House Newt Gingrich, has similarly stated that the election might be “stolen” because of
12 voter fraud in Democratic-leaning communities: “You look at Philadelphia, you look at
13 St. Louis, you look at Chicago, I mean, again, I’m old enough, I remember when Richard
14 Nixon had the election stolen in 1960 So to suggest that we have—that you don’t
15 have theft in Philadelphia is to deny reality.”

16 28. At an October 29 rally in Phoenix, Trump repeated his claim that election is
17 “rigged” against him and “the outcome is fixed.” He later elaborated that the election is
18 “rigged” because of “voter fraud,” and instructed his supporters to “watch, watch, be
19 careful, watch.” Trump has further made clear: “This is what I mean when I say that our
20 system is rigged. Be careful, watch for voter fraud.” Trump was introduced at the
21 Phoenix by Joe Arpaio, the Sheriff of Maricopa County, who is under federal civil rights
22 investigation for racial profiling of Latino Americans and has been charged with contempt
23 of court for failing to comply with court orders in that case.

24 29. Trump’s vice presidential running mate, Indiana Governor Mike Pence, has joined
25 in calling for Trump supporters to engage in voter intimidation, stating that “we’re
26 encouraging all our supporters . . . to be involved” in monitoring polling places for voter
27 fraud.

28

1 30. Trump now asserts at rallies that the presence of fraud at the polls will prevent
2 him from winning the November 8 election. His comments are consistently directed at
3 Democratic-leaning communities with large minority populations. For example, at an
4 October 18 rally in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Trump warned his supporters about voter
5 fraud: “[T]ake a look at Philadelphia, what’s been going on, take a look at Chicago, take
6 a look at St. Louis. Take a look at some of these cities, where you see things happening
7 that are horrendous.”

8 31. At an October 20 rally in Delaware, Ohio, Trump told the crowd that Secretary
9 Clinton is “truly capable of anything, including voter fraud.” At the same rally, Trump
10 repeated what he called “terrible, frightening statistics” (which also happen to be false),
11 like the claim that “fourteen percent of non-citizens are registered to vote,” or that “1.8
12 million people are dead, but they’re registered to vote, some of whom voted even though
13 they’re dead. Which is really a hard thing to do. But it’s easy, if fraud is involved. . . .
14 One was a Republican, and after death, became a Democrat. It’s true!”

15 32. At a rally in Golden, Colorado on October 29, 2016, Trump accused postal
16 workers of throwing out ballots that they don’t “like.” Trump told the crowd, “I have real
17 problems with ballots being sent. Does that make sense? Like people saying, ‘Oh here’s
18 a ballot,’ being, ‘here’s another ballot - throw it away, throw it away. Oh, here’s one I
19 like, we’ll keep that one. I have real problems—so get your ballots in. We’re trying to
20 have some pretty good supervision out there. We got a lot of people watching you people
21 that collect the ballots. We got a lot of people watching the people that collect the ballots.
22 Now, the, you know, dishonest media will say ‘oh, that wasn’t nice. Everything is so
23 honest. Everything in our country –’ We have 1.8 million people that are dead registered
24 to vote. Right? And some of them vote. I wonder how that happens. We have 2.7
25 million people on more than one state, they’re registered two states, and sometimes more
26 than that. And I could go on and on and on.”

27 33. Stone has amplified Trump’s message. Stone is a far-right-wing political
28 operative who has served as a close advisor to Trump throughout his run for President.

1 Stone has a history of engaging in voter intimidation, racist and misogynist hate speech,
2 and incitement to violence. Stone has publicly called for the execution of Secretary
3 Clinton, Senator Bernie Sanders, and George Soros, among others. He has referred to
4 Herman Cain as a “mandingo,” to former presidential candidate Ben Carson as an “Uncle
5 Tom,” and Representative Allen West as an “arrogant know-it-all negro.” He is also the
6 peddler of numerous widely discredited conspiracy theories, just a few of which include
7 that the Bush family tried to assassinate President Reagan, that President Lyndon Johnson
8 orchestrated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and that Senator Ted Cruz’s
9 father was tied to the Kennedy assassination.

10 34. Stone’s super PAC Stop the Steal is currently running a website called
11 “StopTheSteal.org,” through which Stone is actively signing up Trump supporters to
12 “volunteer” to fight “voter fraud.” #StopTheSteal is a popular hashtag among Trump
13 supporters on Twitter, and Stone’s group maintains an active Facebook presence. Stone
14 and his organization also have widely disseminated messages via websites such as
15 stopthesteal.org and through social media under hashtags such as #StopTheSteal, falsely
16 claiming that Secretary Clinton rigs elections. One image states: “HILLARY CLINTON
17 CHEATED AND STOLE THE PRIMARY FROM BERNIE . . . WE THE PEOPLE CAN
18 STOP HER FROM STEALING THE GENERAL.” Another states that “25% of Votes
19 needed to win, is decided by illegals” and that hundreds of “electoral votes [are] at RISK
20 of being RIGGED.” Through these and other messages, Stone has sought to encourage
21 Trump supporters to engage in unlawful voter intimidation.

22 35. Stone is also using social media to promote the common plan that Trump
23 supporters—and particularly those who have agreed to engage in vigilante “ballot
24 security” efforts—wear red shirts on Election Day.

25 36. Further, Stone and Stop the Steal Inc. are actively recruiting Trump supporters for
26 “exit polling,” specifically targeting nine Democratic-leaning cities with large minority
27 populations. As of October 29, 2016, Stone claimed to have organized 2,177 volunteers
28 to engage in this “exit polling” operation. That number includes at least 93 volunteers

1 signed up to participate throughout Arizona according to the website at
2 <https://stopthesteal.org/states/Arizona/>.

3 37. Stone’s purported polling exercise serves no legitimate purpose. Stone does not
4 run a polling firm, and effective “exit polling” requires focusing on competitive electoral
5 districts rather than areas that vote overwhelmingly for one party. On information and
6 belief, the purpose and effect of these so-called “exit polling” activities, which are focused
7 on majority-minority communities such as certain areas in Phoenix, is to discourage or
8 intimidate urban and minority voters from casting ballots.

9 38. Through an organization called “Vote Protectors,” Stone has also recruited
10 hundreds of volunteers to watch polling places. The Vote Protectors website permits any
11 volunteer to download and print official-looking identification badges, and asks that
12 volunteers “commit to go out in November and Youtube and Periscope streams to the
13 [Vote Protectors] website.” The website offers detailed instructions for posting videos of
14 voters online but provides few instructions for conducting legitimate exit polling. Instead,
15 volunteers are permitted to tally up votes on the Vote Protectors website—for Trump or
16 any other candidate—without any proof that they had spoken to voters or visited a polling
17 site. Vote Protectors discontinued some, but not all, of these practices after they were
18 exposed by a national media outlet.

19 39. As recently as October 26, 2016, Vote Protectors encouraged volunteers it styles
20 “citizen journalists” to “approach voters at the polls,” identify themselves as “reporting
21 for Vote Protectors,” and ask them about election fraud.

22 40. The notion of widespread voter fraud in modern American politics is itself a
23 fraud. Every attempt to verify the presence of voter fraud has proven fruitless. *See*
24 *generally* Lorraine C. Minnite, *The Myth of Voter Fraud* (2010) (concluding that the
25 notion of widespread voter fraud is a “myth”). One 2014 study found 241 potentially
26 fraudulent ballots had been cast nationwide over a fourteen-year period—*out of 1 billion*
27 *ballots cast*.

28

1 41. Those statistics help explain why the courts that have examined the evidence have
2 concluded that widespread voter fraud does not exist. In a challenge to Pennsylvania’s
3 voter ID law, for example, “[t]he parties [we]re not aware of any incidents of in-person
4 voter fraud in Pennsylvania and d[id] not have direct personal knowledge of in person
5 voter fraud elsewhere.” *Applewhite v. Commonwealth*, No. 330 M.D. 2012, 2014 WL
6 184988, at *57 (Pa. Commw. Ct. Jan. 17, 2014). A federal judge in North Dakota
7 recently determined that “[t]he undisputed evidence before the Court reveals that voter
8 fraud in North Dakota has been virtually non-existent.” *Brakebill v. Jaeger*, No. 16-cv-
9 00008 (DLH), Dkt. No. 50 (D.N.D. Aug. 1, 2016). A federal judge in Wisconsin has
10 similarly observed that “[t]he Wisconsin experience demonstrates that a preoccupation
11 with mostly phantom election fraud leads to real incidents of disenfranchisement, which
12 undermine rather than enhance confidence in elections, particularly in minority
13 communities.” *One Wis. Inst. v. Thomsen*, No. 15-cv-324 (JDP) (W.D. Wis. July 29,
14 2016); *see also Crawford v. Marion Cty. Election Bd.*, 553 U.S. 181, 194 (2008) (“The
15 only kind of voter fraud that SEA 483 addresses is in-person voter impersonation at
16 polling places. The record contains no evidence of any such fraud actually occurring in
17 Indiana at any time in its history.”); *Veasey v. Abbott*, 830 F.3d 216, 238 (5th Cir. 2016)
18 (“[T]he evidence before the Legislature was that in-person voting, the only concern
19 addressed by SB 14, yielded only two convictions for in-person voter impersonation fraud
20 out of 20 million votes cast in the decade leading up to SB 14’s passage.”); *League of*
21 *Women Voters of N.C. v. North Carolina*, 769 F.3d 224, 246 (4th Cir. 2014) (“North
22 Carolina asserts goals of electoral integrity and fraud prevention. But nothing in the
23 district court’s portrayal of the facts suggests that those are anything other than merely
24 imaginable.”); *Frank v. Walker*, 17 F. Supp. 3d 837, 848 (E.D. Wis. 2014) (“[I]t appears
25 that there have been zero incidents of in-person voter-impersonation fraud in Wisconsin
26 during recent elections.”), *rev’d on other grounds*, 768 F.3d 744 (7th Cir. 2014); *Lee v.*
27 *Va. State Bd. of Elections*, No. 3:15-cv-357-HEH, 2016 WL 2946181, at *23 (E.D. Va.
28 May 19, 2016) (“evidence of actual voter impersonation-type fraud was scant”).

1 42. The fact that widespread voter fraud is a myth does not prevent many people—
2 particularly those who are listening most closely to the RNC, Trump, and their surrogates
3 such as Stone—from believing it is real. As a recent Washington Post-ABC poll showed,
4 nearly 70% of Trump’s supporters (but less than half of all voters) believe that voter fraud
5 happens “very often” or “somewhat often.” This widespread belief, despite a total lack of
6 evidence to support it, has been stoked for decades by certain elements of the Republican
7 Party, including Stone and Trump’s allies in the so-called “alt-right” media ecosystem,
8 such as the Breitbart website that was run until recently by Trump Campaign CEO Steve
9 Bannon. In the last few months alone, Breitbart has run dozens of articles on supposed
10 voter fraud, with ominous headlines about “Obama forces” and “Soros-backed” cover-
11 ups, and Stone has appeared on Breitbart-affiliated radio stations to echo Trump’s
12 fearmongering about a stolen election. Stone’s “StopTheSteal” campaign has fanned these
13 flames by widely distributing via social media and elsewhere the false claim that “the
14 Democratic National Committee” and “the Clintons” “intend to flood the polls with
15 illegals” and encouraging Trump supporters to “monitor for voting fraud” in “targeted
16 localities.” And, appearing on Face the Nation on October 23, 2016, RNC Chairman
17 Reince Priebus declared that voter fraud “is real,” and that what Trump is doing is “trying
18 to also tell his folks to watch out for this fraud that might occur.”

19 43. Voter intimidation efforts aimed at suppressing minority voters have frequently
20 been “ostensibly aimed at combatting voter fraud.” *Ne. Ohio Coal. for the Homeless v.*
21 *Husted*, No. 2:06-cv-896, 2016 WL 3166251, at *28 (S.D. Ohio June 7, 2016), *aff’d in*
22 *part, rev’d in part on other grounds*, No. 16-3603, 2016 WL 4761326 (6th Cir. Sept. 13,
23 2016); *see also Veasey*, 830 F.3d at 237 (“[T]he record shows that Texas has a history of
24 justifying voter suppression efforts such as the poll tax and literacy tests with the race-
25 neutral reason of promoting ballot integrity.”). As the New Jersey District Court held in
26 rejecting the RNC’s 2009 request to vacate the Consent Decree, “[v]oter intimidation
27 presents an ongoing threat to the participation of minority individuals in the political
28 process, and continues to pose a far greater danger to the integrity of that process than the

1 type of voter fraud the RNC is prevented from addressing by the Decree.” *Democratic*
2 *Nat’l Comm.*, 671 F. Supp. 2d at 578-79.

3 44. Trump’s calls for unlawful vigilantism to stop purported voter fraud are
4 calculated to advance a coordinated effort to harass and intimidate voters at the polls.
5 Many of the Trump Campaign’s supporters have responded to Trump’s call to action.

6
7 **REPUBLICAN NATIONAL AND STATE COMMITTEES CONSPIRE WITH**
8 **TRUMP AND STONE TO ENCOURAGE VOTER INTIMIDATION**

9 45. As the Republican Party nominee for President, Trump and his campaign
10 coordinate closely with the RNC and ARP on a wide variety of matters, including overall
11 campaign strategy, public messaging, voter outreach, and field operations. It has been
12 widely reported that the Trump Campaign “relinquished control over many of its tactical
13 decisions” to the RNC. Shortly after Trump became the Republican nominee, the RNC
14 met with the Trump Campaign to discuss what they described as “the merger.” The
15 Trump Campaign and RNC “negotiated a partnership,” in which the RNC “buil[t] assets
16 and infrastructure and the nominee gets to benefit from it.”

17 46. On May 25, 2016, the RNC created a joint fundraising committee with the Trump
18 Campaign specifically to fund the Trump Campaign and its operations, and to elect
19 Republicans up and down the ballot.

20 47. The Trump Campaign has decided largely to refrain from setting up its own
21 offices and staff in Arizona and elsewhere, as past Republican Party nominees have done.
22 Instead, as has been widely reported, the Trump Campaign is relying predominantly on
23 the RNC and Republican state party entities (such as the ARP) to manage get-out-the-vote
24 operations in contested states such as Arizona.

25 48. The Trump Campaign’s coordination with the RNC and ARP extends to efforts to
26 monitor polling locations for purported voter fraud. Trump’s running mate, Governor
27 Mike Pence, publicly confirmed that the Trump Campaign is working directly with the
28 RNC and state Republican parties on ballot security measures. At an August 3, 2016,

1 town hall rally in Denver, Colorado, Pence was asked “how is the Trump-Pence campaign
2 going to . . . prevent” Secretary Clinton from “steal[ing] this election.” Pence
3 responded: “I will tell you that the Trump campaign and the Republican National
4 Committee are working very very closely with state governments and secretaries of states
5 all over the country to ensure ballot integrity. . . . We are working hard all over the
6 country, the Republican National Committee is working all over the country, but I would
7 encourage everyone within the sound of my voice, get involved, participate, be a poll
8 worker on election day . . . be a part of that process, and uphold the integrity of one person
9 one vote in America.”

10 49. The RNC has delegated “ballot security” initiatives to its agents in the state
11 parties. For example, Robert Graham, the chair of the Arizona Republican Party, recently
12 remarked that individuals who are designated as Republican poll watchers “will be the
13 eyes and ears of the GOP” to identify people who attempt to drop off multiple absentee
14 ballots at early voting, polling locations, or the county recorder’s office. Despite
15 acknowledging that Arizona law limits what a party-designated observer can do—
16 including restrictions on photography and talking to voters—Graham asserted that
17 “they’re still free to follow voters out into the parking lot, ask them questions, take their
18 pictures and photograph their vehicles and license plate” as long as they are more than 75
19 feet outside a polling place.

20 50. Robert Graham is an RNC member and therefore its agent. He has been widely
21 mentioned as a potential successor to Reince Priebus as Chair of the RNC. On October
22 10, 2016, Graham issued a press release stating: “It is my responsibility, as a member of
23 the Republican National Committee, to elect our Republican nominees and defend our
24 country against all enemies. Hillary Clinton is an enemy to our nation’s security, general
25 welfare and blessings of liberty. I will continue to work with passion, integrity and
26 restlessness to stop Hillary Clinton and elect Donald J. Trump.”

27 51. ARP’s official spokesman, Tim Sifert, has similarly encouraged Republican poll
28 watchers to ask purportedly suspicious voters to provide their names, and to “turn on their

1 phone to take video or pictures or something like that,” including “a picture of the person”
2 as well as “the license plate on the voter’s car.” Sifert reports that this year over 1,000
3 people have signed up to serve as poll observers for the ARP, more than 10 times the
4 number of people who were interested in 2012. Sifert attributes this surge in volunteers
5 directly to Donald Trump and his calls for citizens to monitor the polls.

6 52. Last week, Trump’s campaign manager Kellyanne Conway confirmed that the
7 Trump campaign is “actively working with” the RNC and other branches of the
8 Republican Party apparatus, including the ARP, to engage in “ballot security” initiatives.
9 The RNC and ARP have continued this close coordination even after Trump’s widespread
10 and racially charged pleas to his supporters to engage in voter intimidation in areas like
11 Phoenix that contain large communities of racial minorities.

12 53. Only recently, the Trump Campaign distributed talking points to Republican Party
13 surrogates directing that they “[m]ust make points on rigged system,” and encouraging
14 them to claim there has been “an increase in unlawful voting by illegal immigrants.”
15

16 **CO-CONSPIRATORS RESPOND WITH PROMISES TO INTIMIDATE VOTERS**

17 54. The available evidence suggests that Trump’s supporters are responding to his
18 calls to engage in voter intimidation. The *Boston Globe* has reported on Trump supporters
19 who are planning to engage in unlawful voter intimidation, and who understand
20 themselves to be doing so at Trump’s behest:

21 “Trump said to watch your precincts. I’m going to go, for sure,” said Steve
22 Webb, a 61-year-old carpenter from Fairfield, Ohio.

23 “I’ll look for . . . well, it’s called racial profiling. Mexicans. Syrians. People
24 who can’t speak American,” he said. “I’m going to go right up behind them.
25 I’ll do everything legally. I want to see if they are accountable. I’m not going
26 to do anything illegal. I’m going to make them a little bit nervous.”
27
28

1 55. Notwithstanding Mr. Webb’s pledge not to do “anything illegal,” the conduct in
2 which he plans to engage on Trump’s behalf—deliberately targeting minority voters via
3 “racial profiling” in order to “make them a little bit nervous” while they are attempting to
4 vote—unequivocally violates Section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act. *See, e.g.*,
5 Temporary Restraining Order, *Daschle*, No. 04-cv-4177, Dkt. No. 6.

6 56. Similarly, Harry Miller, purportedly of Palm Beach, Florida, tweeted in response
7 to Trump’s calls for election observers that he would be “wear’n red at polls... We gonna
8 be watch’n fer shenanigans...& haul ya away...” The tweet included a picture of a pickup
9 truck with Florida plates and a person-sized cage built into the bed, surrounded by
10 American flags. Miller has over 20,000 Twitter followers and tweets almost exclusively
11 about Trump, Secretary Clinton, and racially charged political themes such as deporting
12 “Muzzys.” A typical tweet asserts that “Our Muzzy Commander in Chief” is “shov’n
13 Sharia Law down our throats... & Crooked Hiltlery follow’n his every move...”

14 57. At a “poll watcher training” class for Trump supporters organized by the
15 Republican Party of Virginia, would-be watchers expressed their belief that “there is
16 going to be massive voter fraud, and it definitely will be to ensure Hillary Clinton wins.”
17 The leader of the class listed purported voter-fraud schemes “orchestrated by liberal
18 groups,” including “civil rights leaders coercing severely disabled people into voting.”
19 One Trump supporter seeking to be a poll watcher said her “biggest concern” was
20 “[i]lllegals voting,” and noted as an example of said phenomenon that in 2012 she saw
21 voters who did not appear to speak English.

22 58. Other examples of vigilantism and planned voter intimidation connected to Trump
23 and Stone’s call to action abound. For instance, as noted above, the ARP is training poll
24 watchers to demand identifying information from voters dropping off multiple ballots,
25 encouraging volunteers to follow suspected violators of Arizona’s ballot collection law
26 into parking lots, interrogate them, record their license plates, and even call 911 to report
27 that a felony is in progress—regardless of whether the poll watcher actually knows
28 whether the person is legally allowed to drop off the ballots.

1 59. Similarly, on October 13, 2016, two armed Trump supporters staged a purported
2 “protest” in front of the office of a Virginia Democratic candidate for Congress, Jane
3 Dittmar. The armed Trump supporters, one of whom wore a signature Trump campaign
4 hat, stood for nearly twelve hours outside Dittmar’s campaign office, turning sideways so
5 that those inside could see that they were carrying firearms.

6 60. In North Carolina, according to one report, “someone showed up to early voting
7 with a badge saying ‘poll observer’ and was photographing and videotaping cars coming
8 and going and ‘generally being an intimidating factor there.’”

9 61. Trump supporters have also sought to sow misinformation among supporters of
10 Secretary Clinton. For example, Joshua Lorenz, a Republican City Councilman from
11 Murrysville, Pennsylvania, posted on Facebook an image with the phrase: “Vote Hillary
12 November 8th” and “YOU CAN VOTE AT HOME COMFORTABLY ONLINE!” with
13 instructions for how only Clinton supporters could purportedly vote online. Lorenz
14 included with his post a statement: “More proof that the election process is rigged. Only
15 Hillary supporters can vote from their smartphones or in the comfort of their own homes.”
16 A similar image being circulated online features a photo of Clinton and the statement:
17 “Did you know? Pennsylvania now has online voting?” in a font that is similar to that
18 used in official Clinton campaign advertising. Of course, these statements are false.

19 62. Stone has participated directly in this misinformation campaign. On October 23,
20 2016, Stone sent out a message via his Twitter feed deliberately designed to mislead
21 Democratic voters by representing—using Secretary Clinton’s likeness and logo—that
22 supporters can “VOTE the NEW way on Tues. Nov 8th” by texting “HILLARY to 8888,”
23 after which voters will apparently “receive official confirmation.”

24 63. All the while, Trump continues to fan the flames of polling-place harassment
25 targeting non-white voters in urban areas, and continues to invoke the baseless claim that
26 the unlawful conduct that his supporters are planning, at his behest, is justified by “voter
27 fraud.” Trump and Stone’s formalized efforts to organize these vigilantes through the
28

1 “Trump Election Observers” and “StopTheSteal” mechanisms remain mostly hidden from
2 public view.

3 **DEFENDANTS’ PLANNED ACTIONS ARE NEITHER LEGITIMATE NOR**
4 **LAWFUL MEASURES TO PROTECT AGAINST VOTER FRAUD**

5
6 64. Trump’s calls for his supporters to travel en masse outside their counties of
7 residence and engage in vigilante voter intimidation bears no possible relationship to
8 legitimate efforts to protect against voter fraud. In fact, Trump has directed his supporters
9 to engage in activity forbidden by Arizona state election law.

10 65. Arizona law provides that “one challenger for each political party may be present
11 and act,” after they have been designated by the county party chairman “by written
12 appointment addressed to the election board.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-590(A)-(B). But “not
13 more than the number of party representatives for each party which were mutually agreed
14 upon by each political party represented on the ballot shall be in the polling place at one
15 time.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-590(C).

16 66. Arizona law also provides that no one other than “election officials,” “one
17 representative at any one time of each political party represented on the ballot who has
18 been appointed by the county chairman of that political party,” “and the challengers
19 allowed by law” may enter a 75-foot perimeter around polling places during voting
20 “except for the purpose of voting.” Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-515(A). “[N]o electioneering
21 may occur within the seventy-five foot limit,” and after voting, voters must “promptly
22 move outside the seventy-five foot limit.” *Id.* The officials and other persons permitted
23 within the perimeter for purposes other than voting “shall not wear, carry or display
24 materials that identify or express support for or opposition to a candidate, a political party
25 or organization . . . or other political issue, and shall not electioneer” within the perimeter.
26 Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-515(F). Photography and video recording within the limit is
27 forbidden. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-515(G).
28

1 voters—“You know what I mean,” he has clarified for his co-conspirators—have resulted
2 in plans to engage in “racial profiling” and threaten lawful voters with the prospect of
3 monitoring, questioning after voting under the guise of phony “exit polling” or by self-
4 declared “citizen journalists,” baseless legal action, and even possible physical harm,
5 including unlawful detention because they have come out to cast a ballot.

6 72. The Trump Campaign, Stone, and Stop the Steal Inc. have engaged in online
7 organizing and mobilization efforts to support their plan.

8 73. The RNC and Defendant ARP are providing financial, personnel, and other
9 organizational support to the voter intimidation efforts launched by the Trump Campaign,
10 Stone, and Stop the Steal Inc. in violation of the Ku Klux Klan Act.

11 74. Absent declaratory and injunctive relief, voters will be subjected to intimidation,
12 threats, and perhaps even force at the hands of vigilante “poll watchers” and “ballot
13 integrity” volunteers on Election Day, and many may suffer unwarranted delays or denials
14 of their right to cast a ballot in the approaching elections.

15 75. Plaintiffs are entitled to a declaration that the ARP, the Trump Campaign, Stone,
16 Stop the Steal Inc., and their co-conspirators have violated the Ku Klux Klan Act through
17 their conspiracy to intimidate voters, and an injunction enjoining Defendants and others
18 from any further activity to advance their conspiracy.

19
20 **COUNT TWO: VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

21 76. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations of the preceding paragraphs.

22 77. Following Trump’s urging, Defendants have called for—and their supporters have
23 promised—polling-place activity that is objectively likely to instill fear in voters. Such
24 intimidation includes racial targeting, invasions of physical space, aggressive questioning
25 and other forms of menacing, suggestions of possible criminal prosecution, and threats of
26 physical violence or harm.

1 78. The RNC and Defendant ARP have provided financial, personnel, and
2 organizational support to the efforts of the Trump Campaign, Stone, and Stop the Steal
3 Inc. to organize people to engage in intimidation efforts in Arizona.

4 79. This planned course of intimidation constitutes a violation of Section 11(b) of the
5 Voting Rights Act, which prohibits all actual or attempted “intimidation,” “threats,” or
6 “coercion” against a person, either “for voting or attempting to vote.”

7 80. Absent declaratory and injunctive relief, voters will be subjected to intimidation,
8 threats, and perhaps even force at the hands of vigilante “poll watchers” and “ballot
9 integrity” volunteers on Election Day, and many may suffer unwarranted delays or denials
10 of their right to cast a ballot in the approaching elections.

11 81. Plaintiffs are entitled to a declaration that the ARP, the Trump Campaign, Stone,
12 Stop the Steal Inc., and their co-conspirators have violated Section 11(b) of the Voting
13 Rights Act.

14 **COUNT THREE: INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

15 82. Based on Defendants’ above-described violations of law, Plaintiff is entitled to an
16 injunction enjoining the Defendants and others from any and all planned voter-
17 intimidation activities. This activity includes but is not limited to:

- 18 a. Funding, encouraging, or otherwise supporting, including by training or
19 organizing, individuals who are not officially appointed party or candidate
20 representatives under Arizona law to be present at or around polling places or
21 voter lines for the purpose of engaging in poll watching activities;
- 22 b. Monitoring polling places, or permitting, encouraging, or assisting individuals
23 to monitor polling places, if the proposed monitor does not meet the statutory
24 requirements for service as a poll watcher;
- 25 c. Gathering or loitering within seventy five (75) feet of a polling place, or
26 permitting, encouraging, or assisting any individuals to gather or loiter within
27 seventy five (75) feet of a polling place, unless such person is one of the
28

1 appointed party representatives for each candidate or party who may be present
2 in a polling place at any time;

3 d. Questioning, interrogating, or verbally harassing voters or prospective voters, or
4 training, organizing, or directing others to do the same, for the purpose or with
5 the effect of intimidating voters or prospective voters;

6 e. Following, taking photos of, or otherwise recording voters or prospective
7 voters, those assisting voters or prospective voters, or their vehicles, or training,
8 organizing, or directing others to do the same.

9 83. Defendants Stone and Stop the Steal should be enjoined from questioning, and
10 from training, organizing, or deputizing any persons to question voters at Arizona polling
11 locations under the guise of purported “exit polling” operations.

12
13 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray this Court:

15 a. Declare that the harassment or intimidation of voters at or outside the polls
16 during the 2016 Election based on unsubstantiated beliefs in supposed voter
17 fraud—including through aggressive questioning of those waiting to vote,
18 threats or suggestions of legal or criminal action, or any other form of menacing
19 or intimation of violence—is contrary to law.

20 b. Declare that Defendants’ “exit polling” and “citizen journalist” initiatives are
21 contrary to law.

22 c. Temporarily restrain and enjoin any such conduct effective through November
23 8, 2016.

24 d. Temporarily restrain and enjoin the ARP, the Trump Campaign, Stone, Stop the
25 Steal Inc., and their affiliates and collaborators from organizing efforts to
26 engage in voter intimidation.
27
28

- 1 e. Publicize the Order to all law enforcement and elections officials in advance of
2 Election Day.
3 f. Grant such other relief as this Court may deem proper.
4

5 October 30, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

6
7 /s/ Sarah R. Gonski

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 30, 2016, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing.

s/ Sarah R. Gonski

Class Action: **No**

Dollar Demand: **Prelim. Injunction**

Jury Demand: **No**

VIII. This case is not related to another case.

Signature: **Sarah R. Gonski**

Date: **10/30/2016**

If any of this information is incorrect, please go back to the Civil Cover Sheet Input form using the *Back* button in your browser and change it. Once correct, save this form as a PDF and include it as an attachment to your case opening documents.

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