



SWORN STATEMENT

I, the undersigned Paul O'Sullivan, ID No. 550826 5700 085, state under oath as follows:

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I am a Certifled Fraud Examiner and the owner of Paul O'Sullivan & Associates. Paul O'Sullivan & Associates, 'POAA' are a specialist firm of Forensic and Loss Control Consultants with offices in Sandton, Nairobi and London. I have 40 years of experience in law enforcement and criminal investigations and have served in the police in three different countries.

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In October 2014, POAA were instructed by Ronald Bobroff 'Bobroff' to establish whom had stolen the proprietary and confidential information from his law firm Ronald Bobroff & Partners Inc 'Bobroffs' and passed that information on to civil litigation opponents of Bobroffs, as well as to a certain journalist Tony Beamish 'Beamish'.

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Because I had been supplied with copies of e-mails sent to Beamish, I had established that the main suspect at Bobroffs was a candidate attorney, by the name of Cornelia Sophia van der Merwe 'van der Merwe'. I asked Bobroff If I could interview her and had one of my directors, Miss Melissa Naidu, 'Naidu' accompany me on that interview, as is standard practice in such matters.

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On the 13 October 2014 I, together with Naidu, interviewed Van Der Merwe, at Bobroff's offices, in an attempt to get her to admit and explain why she stole the proprietary information of Bobroffs. Since we were already in possession of evidence of her sending such information to Beamish, the interview was what we describe as an admission seeking interview. Admission seeking interviews are, by their very nature not as easy going as fact finding interviews.

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After initially denying the allegations I put to her above, she subsequently fully confessed that she had In fact unlawfully stolen and e-mailed the confidential and proprietary information of Bobroffs, to Beamish and that she had done so at the instance of Beamish, with whom she had formed a conspiratorial relationship. She also admitted that the electronic files she had sent to Beamish, a freelance journalist, were the confidential and proprietary information of Bobroffs. She further admitted that her letter of appointment contained a confidentiality clause and that she had wilfully breached this.

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I made it clear to her that what she had done constituted a criminal offence. However, if she was sincere in the fact that she had been 'persuaded' by Beamish to send him the stolen data files, then I could attempt to negotiate that she would not be pursued criminally or civilly if she undertook to give her full cooperation and make a sworn statement setting out what she had sent to Beamish, thereby implicating Beamish in receiving stolen property. She then said she would do whatever we required, including making a full sworn statement setting out the facts. By this stage it was 12h30 and I was conscious of a work commitment at my offices, and a clinic appointment at 14h30 at Milpark Hospital. I estimated that the process to take a detailed sworn statement from van der Merwe would likely take a couple of hours, and I felt that if we started the process at my offices, Naidu could then complete the process in my absence, with one of my other staff sitting in on the process.

Rage 1 of 3

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I then suggested to van der Merwe that we go to my offices, in Sandton, to complete the sworn statement that she had agreed to give. I said she could travel with us, and that Mellssa would drop her back later. She readily agreed to this and said she wanted to first call her flancé, but that she had no airtime left on her phone. I said she could use Naidu's phone at no cost, so that we could be on our way. Van der Merwe said she would prefer to use the phone at her desk, so I said I would meet her at my car and that Naidu would go with her to fetch her things.

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I then proceeded towards my car, but stopped to have a quick word with Bobroff, to advise him that I would be taking van der Merwe back to our offices with us and that she would be dropped off after completing the sworn statement. I then went past reception on the way to my car and was joined by Naldu and van der Merwe who walked behind us on the way to my car. At this point I need to make it clear that van der Merwe was coming with us voluntarily. My reason for saying this will become clear later.

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We drove back to our offices and only engaged in small talk in the car. Naidu was sitting in the front passenger seat and van der Merwe was sitting in the back. After about 15 minutes we were at our offices in Sandton and went inside the boardroom. Before we could get down to business, van der Merwe received a call on her phone. She then walked outside of the boardroom and out of the offices and took the call outside. She shortly came back in and wanted to hand me the phone to speak to someone. I asked her who it was and she told me it was her lawyer. I took the phone and the male voice on the other end started interrogating me, by asking if I was a police officer or what was I. I advised him I did not engage in such discussion at the phone and handed the phone back to van der Merwe.

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van der Merwe then said that she would rather get legal advice before making any sworn statement. I then advised her that I was terminating the process, which included a termination of the offer to assist her in not being pursued civilly and/or criminally and I instructed Naidu to take her back to her offices, which she did. When Naidu returned from dropping her off, I instructed her to send an e-mail to van der merwe with the draft format of a sworn statement, that would suffice in terms of her earlier admissions,

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On 2015-10-13, I received an SMS from van der Merwe, asking me to forward Naidu's e-mail to her, which I did. I asked her to deal with Naidu going forward, as I was going to be out of town for a few days.

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On 2014-10-15, I received a detailed e-mail from van der Merwe, containing scandalous and dishonestly constructed allegations. I responded to her false and contrived allegations in detail. And sent a copy of my response to her, to Bobroff. A true copy of the e-mail exchange is attached hereto and marked ANNEXURE 'POS-1'.

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Notwithst5anding the fact that van der Merwe had admitted stealing and sending the stolen documents to a clearly biased and dishonest journalist, she then, in conspiracy with Beamish, commenced a campaign of vilification and defamation against myself, Naidu and Bobroff. She made it clear in my interview with her, that she is penniless, so I have, for the most part ignored her and Beamish's unlawful conduct. However, rather than seeing their unlawful conduct diminish, the opposite seems to be the case.

W Page 2 of 3

On 2015-03-05 I received an e-mail from Wynand Grobler, the managing editor at Carte Blanche, with a letter, wherein he put it to me that van der Merwe had alleged that I had 'kidnapped' her. I have attached that letter hereto as ANNEXURE 'POS-2'. On 2015-03-06, I sent a detailed response to Grobler, which included just two of the many patently false and defamatory tweets of van der Merwe. I do not use Twitter and do not know how to use it, so am blissfully unaware of the scandalosu7 tweets being sent out by both van der Merwe and Beamish, but have had many people telling me that they are saying scandalous things about me.

I have brought all of the above to the attention of Bobroff and requested him to institute action against both van der Merwe and Beamish, for their unlawful conduct. I also pointed out to Bobroff that their current conduct is typical of persons caught out in criminal conduct, in that they attempt to divert attention away from their own criminal conduct, by creating false allegations and attacking their accusers. I have no doubt that van der Merwe and Beamish's current conduct and scandalous and false allegations are nothing more than a red-herring, intended to smoke-screen what they have done.

Prior to me signing this statement, I have carefully read through it and am satisfied that the facts are correctly and accurately recorded. The following questions were put to me in person by the commissioner of oaths and I entered the answers thereto in my own handwriting:

'Do you know and understand the contents of this statement?'

'Do you have any objection to taking the prescribed oath?'

'Do you consider the prescribed oath binding on your conscience?'

Paul O'Sullivan

I certify that the deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this statement which was sworn to before me and the deponents signature was placed thereon in my presence at GALLO MANOR on this TENTH day of APRIL 2015

Commissioner of Oaths

W. L. Mayraa

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES
CLIENT SERVICES CENTRE
GALLO MANOR

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