



CLAIM NO. QB-2019-002311

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST

BETWEEN:

DR CRAIG STEVEN WRIGHT

Claimant

and

MAGNUS GRANATH

Defendant

PARTICULARS OF CLAIM

Parties and background

1. The Claimant is a computer scientist and businessman based in England and Wales. He is highly active within the cryptocurrency sphere, running a number of cryptocurrency and blockchain businesses.
2. The Defendant publishes a Twitter feed under the Twitter handle 'Hodlonaut' ("the Hodlonaut feed").



The Publication Complained Of

3. On 17 March 2019, on the Hodlonaut feed, the Defendant tweeted and published the following words defamatory of the Claimant:

"The forensics to CSW's first attempt to fraudulently 'prove' he is Satoshi. Enabled by @gavinandresen. Never forget. #CraigWrightIsAFraud"

4. Readers of the Hodlonaut feed would have understood the words complained of to refer to the Claimant:

a. The Claimant was named in the Twitter handle '#CraigWrightIsAFraud' which is tagged in the words complained of;

b. The initials 'CSW' would have been understood to refer to the Claimant, given the very numerous references to the Claimant in other tweets on or around 17 March 2019 by the Defendant on the Hodlonaut feed, namely:

i. A tweet on March 16: *"Craig Wright is a very sad and pathetic scammer. Clearly mentally ill. Everything about him induces deep cringe. I suffer from obviousness fatigue after still having to read posts arguing why he isn't Satoshi."*

ii. A tweet on March 17: *"As a tribute to Craig Wright being a fraud, I'm going to make next week 'Craig Wright is a fraud week', and tag all my tweets with #CraigWrightIsAFraud Feel free to join the celebration 🙌"*



”
iii. A tweet on March 17: “#CraigWrightIsAFraud The chain goes strong”

5. By way of innuendo the words complained of meant and were understood to mean that the Claimant had fraudulently claimed to be Satoshi Nakamoto, that is to say the person, or one of the group of people, who developed the cypto currency Bitcoin.

PARTICULARS OF RELEVANT EXTRANEIOUS FACTS PURSUANT TO CPR 53PD 2.3(2)

- a. ‘Satoshi’ is a pseudonym for the person, or the group of people, who developed the cypto currency Bitcoin, authored the Bitcoin white paper ‘*Peer-to-Peer: an electronic cash system*’ in 2008 , and created and deployed Bitcoin’s original reference implementation. ‘Satoshi’ is also known as ‘Satoshi Nakamoto’. The true identity of ‘Satoshi’ has for many years been a matter of considerable speculation amongst those with an interest in crypto currency.
 - b. These matters are very well known to readers of the Hodlonaut feed, who are mostly individuals with an interest in crypto currency.
6. The publication of the words complained of caused serious harm to the Claimant’s reputation in this jurisdiction:



a. The defamatory allegation complained of is very grave.

b. The tweet was published to, at least, the Defendant's 8,878 followers on the Hodlonaut feed. It is to be inferred that a substantial proportion of the Defendant's followers, as well as others who read the words complained of, were in this jurisdiction.

7. The publication of the words complained of has caused the Claimant to suffer injury to his feelings.

8. In support of his claim for damages the Claimant will rely upon the following facts and matters:

a. The words complained of were published as part of a campaign on the part of the Defendant to cause damage and distress to the Claimant. The tweet was one of a sequence of tweets on the Hodlonaut feed which the Defendant published in order to mock and abuse the Claimant. Paragraph 4(b) above is repeated. The Claimant will also refer in this regard to the following tweets by the Defendant on the Hodlonaut feed:

i. A tweet on March 17, in which the Defendant described how he enjoyed provoking the Claimant by calling him a fraud: "*Eric says giving attention to frauds is wrong. Which is often correct. But sometimes that can also end up enabling their scams. Making people aware that this man is a fraud is important, many new people coming in unaware. Also, I think it triggers him, which is a bonus.*"



ii. A tweet on March 18: "*Happy #CraigWrightIsAFraud week everyone!*



iii. A tweet on March 18: "*#CraigWrightIsAFraud week gets off to a flying start with the fraud himself disappearing from twitter on day 1. Double taco rations tonight 🌮🌮🌮*".

b. The Defendant was motivated to harm and abuse the Claimant because he is an active supporter and promoter of the Bitcoin Core protocol, which is a rival to the protocol promoted by the Claimant, namely Bitcoin SV.

9. Unless restrained by this honourable court, the Defendant will further publish the words complained of.

AND the Claimant claims:

- (1) Damages, including aggravated damages, for libel;
- (2) An injunction to restrain the Defendant whether by himself, his agents, servants or otherwise howsoever from further publishing, causing, authorising or procuring the publications of the allegations complained of or similar allegations defamatory of the Claimant;
- (3) An order under Section 12 of the Defamation Act 2013 that the Defendant publishes a summary of the judgment in the proceedings.




~~ADAM WOLANSKI QC~~
~~ALED JONES~~

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in these Particulars of Claim are true.

Full name:


Craig Steven Wright

Signed:

Date:

22 JULY 2019