

in response to a request from the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff, the Court makes its findings of fact and conclusions of law as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy claims against Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin (the wife and daughter of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's former attorney, David Westfall) were groundless and totally unsupported by any credible evidence whatsoever.
2. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy claims against Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin were without merit and brought for the purpose of harassment, delay, and to seek advantage in a collateral matter by attempting to cause the original Plaintiff, David Westfall to drop his claim for un-reimbursed legal services provided to the Defendant.
3. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff was afforded numerous opportunities to marshal his evidence and present any facts to support his allegations concerning RICO civil conspiracy claims against the wife and daughter of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's attorney, David Westfall. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff wholly failed to provide any such credible evidence at either the summary judgment phase of the lawsuit or at the hearing on the motion for sanctions.
4. The attempt to provide testimony by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff concerning RICO civil conspiracy claims were his own opinions and totally uncorroborated by any other evidence.
5. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff never established that he had suffered any economic damages as a result of an alleged conspiracy. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff was sued by his former counsel to collect money for legal work which had been performed for the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff for which the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff had not paid his attorney in

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

full. The jury found that the work had been performed by the attorney, the amount charged to the client was reasonable, and that there was an amount owed by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff to the Plaintiff. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy claims had no bearing on whether or not the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff received the legal services and owed the balance of the outstanding attorney's fees.

6. The filing of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy was a blatant and obvious attempt to influence the outcome of the Plaintiff's legitimate lawsuit against the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff and to cause harassment to the Plaintiff and his family members.

7. The behavior of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff in filing claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy in this lawsuit have been totally without substantiation on any cause of action pled.

8. The conduct of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff giving rise to the award of punitive damages was engaged in willfully and maliciously by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff with the intent to harm the Plaintiff and the Counter-Defendants.

9. The amount of actual damages, attorney's fees, suffered by the Counter-Defendant was proven to be reasonable and necessary by a preponderance of the evidence and not challenged by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff at the hearing on sanctions. The amount of actual damages awarded was in an amount that was proven at the hearing.

10. The amount of damages for inconvenience awarded by the court was proven at the hearing by a preponderance of the evidence and not challenged by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff at the hearing on sanctions. The court awarded damages for inconvenience in an amount the Court found to be reasonable and necessary, supported by evidence, and appropriate considering the circumstances.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

11. The amount of punitive damages awarded by the Court were found to be supported by the evidence and necessary under the circumstances to attempt to prevent similar future action on the part of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff.
12. The sanctions award is directly related to the harm done.
13. The sanctions award is not excessive in relation to the harm done and the net worth of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff.
14. The sanctions award is an appropriate amount in order to gain the relief which the Court seeks, which is to stop the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff and others similarly situated from filing frivolous lawsuits.
15. The amount of the punitive damage award is an amount narrowly tailored to the amount of harm caused by the offensive conduct to be punished.
16. The Counter-Defendants suffered both economic and emotional damages as a result of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's lawsuit and specifically the frivolous nature of the lawsuit caused damages which included expenses (in addition to taxable court costs), attorney's fees, harassment, inconvenience, intimidation, and threats.
17. The Counter-Defendants established a prima facie case that this lawsuit was filed by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff without merit and for the purpose of harassment. The prima facie case was made by the testimony and documents introduced as evidence by the Counter-Defendants at the summary judgment proceedings as well as at the hearing on sanctions on July 30, 2002.
18. After the Counter-Defendants established their prima facie case, the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff failed wholly to provide any credible evidence to support the legal theories of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff wholly failed to provide any credible evidence to substantiate any of his claims concerning a RICO civil conspiracy claim.
2. An essential element of each of Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claim was damages.
3. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff failed to prove any damage as a direct result of any action or inaction caused by the Plaintiff or the Counter-Defendants.
4. All of Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims were as a matter of law unproved and untenable on the evidence presented to the Court.
5. Based upon the facts presented to support Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claim concerning RICO civil conspiracy charges, the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy were completely untenable.
6. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy charges were not based upon the law, were not a good faith extension of existing law, and were brought and continued to be urged for the purpose of harassment.
7. The court concludes as a matter of law that Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's claims concerning RICO civil conspiracy were brought for the purpose of harassment.
8. The Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff's behavior in bringing and prosecuting this frivolous lawsuit was a violation of one or more of the following: §9.000 et seq. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, §10.000 et seq. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, and/or Rule 13, T.R.C.P.
9. The Court has the power to award both actual and punitive damages against the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff for the filing and prosecution of a frivolous lawsuit. This authority stems from one or more of the following: §9.000 et seq. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, §10.000 et seq. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, Rule 13, T.R.C.P., and/or the common law of Texas.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

10. The behavior and attitude of the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff in filing and prosecuting this claim against the Counter-Defendants calls out for the award of both actual and punitive damages to be assessed against the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff.

11. The Counter-Defendants were successful in presenting a prima facie case to the Court on the issue of sanctions. After the prima facie case was made, the burden of proof shifted to the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff and the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff failed in its effort to prove good faith in the filing of the RICO civil conspiracy claims.

12. The appropriate award for actual damages as a result of the filing and full prosecution of this frivolous lawsuit is an award of \$50,085.00 in attorney's fees. The Court makes this award under power granted to the Court by §9.000 et seq. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, §10.000 et seq. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, Rule 13, T.R.C.P., and/or the common law of Texas.

13. The appropriate sanction for the inconvenience suffered by the Counter-Defendants for the filing and full prosecution of this frivolous lawsuit is an award of \$1,000.00 to Christina Westfall and \$1,800.00 to Stefani Podvin, to be paid by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff to the Counter-Defendants.

14. The appropriate punitive sanction for the filing and full prosecution of this frivolous lawsuit is an award of \$5,000.00 to Christina Westfall and an award of \$5,000.00 to Stefani Podvin, to be paid by the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff to the Counter-Defendants.

15. The award of punitive damages is directly related to the harm done.

16. The award of punitive damages is not excessive.

17. The award of punitive damages is an appropriate amount to seek to gain the relief sought which is to stop this Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff, and others like him, from filing similar frivolous lawsuits.

18. The amount of the punitive damage award is narrowly tailored to the harm done.
19. Authority for the punitive damage award is derived from §10.000 et seq. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code, Rule 13, T.R.C.P., and/or the common law of Texas.

Any finding of fact herein which is later determined to be a conclusion of law, is to be deemed a conclusion of law regardless of its designation in this document as a finding of fact. Any conclusion of law herein which is later determined to be a finding of fact, is to be deemed a finding of fact regardless of its designation in this document as a conclusion of law.

SIGNED THIS 30 day of September, 2003.



JUDGE PRESIDING