

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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JOHN P. "JACK" FLYNN	:	
LESLIE A. FLYNN	:	
	:	
Plaintiffs,	:	
	:	
v.	:	<u>Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-02587</u>
	:	
	:	PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT
CABLE NEWS NETWORK, INC.	:	
	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendant.	:	
-----X	:	

Plaintiffs, John P. "Jack" Flynn and Leslie A. Flynn ("Plaintiffs" or the "Flynnns"), by counsel, file the following Complaint against Defendant, Cable News Network, Inc. ("CNN").

Plaintiffs seek (a) compensatory damages and punitive damages in the sum of **\$75,000,000.00**, (b) prejudgment interest on the principal sum awarded by the Jury from January 6, 2021 to the date Judgment is entered pursuant to New York Civil Practice Law and Rules ("CPLR") § 5001, (c) attorney's fees, and (d) court costs – arising out of the Defendant's defamation and false light invasion of privacy.

I. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACTS

1. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), "QAnon" is a "domestic violence extremist" ("DVE") group and a "domestic terrorism threat". The *Wall Street Journal* concludes that QAnon is a "far right-wing, loosely organized network and community of believers who embrace a range of unsubstantiated beliefs. These views center on the idea that a

cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles—mainly consisting of what they see as elitist Democrats, politicians, journalists, entertainment moguls and other institutional figures—have long controlled much of the so-called deep state government, which they say sought to undermine [President] Trump, mostly with aid of media and entertainment outlets.” On January 6, 2021, adherents of QAnon were among the “most prominent members of the mob” who stormed the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. https://www.wsj.com/articles/what-is-qanon-what-we-know-about-the-conspiracy-theory-11597694801?mod=article_inline]. CBS News’ *60 Minutes* recently represented that the violent “extremist ideology” of the QAnon “movement” has had a “corrosive impact” on the United States. [<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/qanon-conspiracy-united-states-60-minutes-2021-02-21/>].

2. In the wake of the January 6 storming of the Capitol, a chorus of left-wing media outlets began to spread false narratives about QAnon, including that Jack Flynn’s brother, retired Lieutenant General Michael T. Flynn (“General Flynn”), was the “founder” of QAnon. On January 31, 2021, CNN aired a “Special Report” hosted by Anderson Cooper entitled, “*Inside the QAnon Conspiracy*”. CNN called QAnon a “deranged conspiracy cult”. CNN stated that some of “Q’s conspiracy claims” were “actually based on age-old racist and anti-Semitic beliefs”. CNN asserted that QAnon, like the Nazis, promoted “ancient and dark biases and bigotry in World history”. CNN stated that QAnon supporters were detached from “reality” and had an utter “disregard” for the facts. CNN alleged that QAnon followers were mentally ill and crazy. CNN concluded that it was “abundantly clear” that QAnon was a “dangerous and violent movement” – a movement that has become “insurrectionist”.

3. On February 4, 2021, CNN falsely accused Plaintiffs of being “followers” and supporters of the “dangerous”, “violent”, “racist”, “extremist”, “insurrectionist”, “domestic terrorism” movement – **QAnon**.

4. CNN published an “exclusive” by reporter, Donie O’Sullivan (“O’Sullivan”), titled “*CNN Goes Inside A Gathering Of QANON Followers*”. In the piece, O’Sullivan falsely claimed that “where we go one, we go all” was an “infamous QAnon slogan promoted by Trump’s first National Security Advisor Michael Flynn”. In support of O’Sullivan’s comment, CNN produced an edited clip from a video posted to Twitter by General Flynn on July 4, 2020. The video was taken during a Fourth of July barbecue at Plaintiffs’ home in Newport County, Rhode Island. In the video, members of the Flynn family, including Plaintiffs, took an oath to the United States Constitution, the same oath taken by Members of Congress. After finishing the oath, General Flynn stated, “where we go one, we go all”,¹ and the entire family exclaimed, “God Bless America”:



¹ The phrase “where we go one, we go all” was first engraved on a bell on one of President John F. Kennedy’s sailboats, acknowledging the unity of mankind. In his video published on July 4, 2020, General Flynn intended to encourage people to think about being good citizens, to love country and be good patriots. The video had nothing to do with QAnon or recruiting “digital soldiers” for an apocalyptic reckoning.

In the CNN clip included with O’Sullivan’s “exclusive”, CNN intentionally edited out the oath to the United States Constitution and omitted the words “God Bless America”,² fraudulently making it appear and insinuating that Plaintiffs pledged an oath of allegiance to QAnon. CNN intended and endorsed the defamatory meaning.

5. In addition to its millions of TV viewers, CNN published the “exclusive” to its 12,200,000 YouTube subscribers and to its 459,000 followers on Twitter:



² CNN first published the video of the Flynn family’s Fourth of July oath on July 7, 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2020/07/07/michael-flynn-qanon-twitter-oath-video-orig-llr.cnn>; <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/07/politics/michael-flynn-qanon-video/index.html>. In an accompanying article written by Marshall Cohen, CNN noted that General Flynn’s Twitter post included the hashtag, #TakeTheOath, followed by an American Flag. CNN falsely claimed this was a “QAnon hashtag”.

[<https://mobile.twitter.com/CNNnewsroom/status/1357801350768308224>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65q8J3Q8MIU>].

6. Plaintiffs are not followers or supporters of any extremist or terrorist groups, including QAnon. CNN falsely attributed to Plaintiffs associations that never existed, actions Plaintiffs never took, including an oath of allegiance to QAnon, and views Plaintiffs never held. CNN's false attributions exposed Plaintiffs to public scorn, ridicule and contempt, and lowered their esteem in the community, causing insult, embarrassment, humiliation and substantial injury to Plaintiffs' reputations. Plaintiffs received notice from a friend that they had been featured on CNN:



To their chagrin and dismay, Plaintiffs have had to explain away CNN's hurtful misstatements, and defend their good standing and reputations in the community.

7. In this case, Plaintiffs seek presumed damages, actual damages, special damages and punitive damages as a result of CNN's false statements and actions.

II. PARTIES

8. Plaintiffs are citizens of Rhode Island. They are both private individuals. Jack Flynn graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1983 with a degree in Marine Affairs and a second concentration in Economics. He worked as a fisherman through college and afterwards for a time. He was a salesman for a seafood company called Prelude Foods for a few years. At the age of 28, Jack started his first seafood processing wholesale business. He has worked in the same type of seafood processing and sales business ever since. He is now 64 years old, and is currently employed as General Manager of a seafood plant. Jack is afraid that he will be terminated for the first time in his life because of CNN's false allegation that Jack supports DVE and "domestic terrorist" organization, QAnon. Leslie Flynn has been a stay-at-home Mom for the past fifteen (15) years. She worked as a hairstylist and administrative assistant for a dentist. That's where she met Jack. Jack and Leslie have been married for 23 years. They raised 4 children. They have 3 grandkids. Until they were egregiously defamed by CNN, the Flynnns enjoyed an untarnished reputation in the community.

9. Defendant, CNN, is a Delaware corporation, with a principal place of business in New York. CNN is a division of WarnerMedia. WarnerMedia is an operating segment of AT&T, Inc. CNN is part of WarnerMedia's "Turner" business unit. The Turner business unit operates television networks and related properties that offer branded news and other content for consumers in New York and around the world. Millions watch CNN. Turner's digital properties include the CNN digital network,

www.cnn.com. In addition to its massive digital footprint, CNN employs multiple social media accounts as a means to profit from the publication of its false statements. The broadcast, video and posts at issue in this case, identified above, were published and read in New York, where Plaintiffs suffered damage. *See, e.g., Keeton v. Hustler Magazine, Inc.*, 465 U.S. 770, 776 (1984) (“[f]alse statements of fact harm both the subject of the falsehood **and** the readers of the statement ... The tort of libel is generally held to occur wherever the offending material is circulated. Restatement (Second) of Torts § 577A, Comment a (1977). The reputation of the libel victim may suffer harm even in a state in which he has hitherto been anonymous. The communication of the libel may create a negative reputation among the residents of a jurisdiction where the plaintiff’s previous reputation was, however small, at least unblemished.”).

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (Diversity) and § 1367 (Supplemental Jurisdiction). The parties are citizens of different States and the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

11. CNN is at home in New York, and is subject to the Court’s general personal jurisdiction.

12. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and 1391(b)(2). A substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims stated in this action, including publication and republication of false and defamatory statements and injury to Plaintiffs, occurred in the Southern District of New York.

COUNT I – DEFAMATION PER SE

13. Plaintiffs restate paragraphs 1 through 12 of this Complaint, and incorporates them herein by reference.

14. On February 26, 2021, CNN doubled-down on its narratives about QAnon. In yet another “Special Report” hosted by Anderson Cooper, CNN reiterated that QAnon was a “cult”. Cooper repeated that QAnon espoused ideas that were based on “anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic tropes that have been used [by] ... the Nazis”. Cooper emphasized that “[t]rusting the plan was an important part of QAnon belief”.³ Cooper drew analogies between QAnon and the “terror group ISIS”. Cooper concluded the Special Report by stating that “the cult of QAnon shows us that even the most ludicrous and disturbing ideas can find an audience online. And in the real world, the results can be tragic.” [<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/2102/26/csr.01.html>].

15. Viewed in context, CNN made, published and republished false factual statements of or concerning Plaintiffs. CNN stated or implied and insinuated that Plaintiffs had predilections towards or were linked to and involved in or with the extremist group QAnon.

16. CNN published the false statements without privilege of any kind.

17. CNN’s statements are materially false. Plaintiffs are not and never have been followers or supporters of the QAnon terrorist group. Plaintiffs never took or pledged an oath of allegiance to QAnon. There is a material difference between CNN’s

³ During a podcast on February 8, 2021, General Flynn dismissed multiple QAnon “theories”. He made it clear that “there’s no plan ... there’s so many people out there asking, ‘is the plan happening?’” General Flynn told the audience, “we have what we have, and we have to accept the situation [with the Presidential election] as it is”. [<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/general-michael-flynn-interview/id1518325298?i=1000507956615> (22:02)].

false statements and the truth. CNN falsely attributed to Plaintiffs an affiliation/association, beliefs and views that Plaintiffs have never had.⁴ The false statements are defamatory. *See Masson v. New Yorker Magazine, Inc.*, 501 U.S. 496, 510-511 (1991) (“False attribution of statements to a person may constitute libel, if the falsity exposes that person to ... [hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy, or ... causes him

⁴ CNN might as well have accused Plaintiffs of being supporters and followers of ISIS, the Proud Boys, the Ku Klux Klan, or the Nazis. *See Boulger v. Woods*, 917 F.3d 471, 483 (6th Cir. 2019) (the tweet at issue was reasonably susceptible to a defamatory meaning—that “Woods was asserting Boulger was the woman giving the Nazi salute”); *Liberty Lobby, Inc. v. Anderson*, 1991 WL 186998, at * 9 (D. D.C. 1991) (“The Court finds that the implication that Carto emulates Hitler in appearance or action is defamatory and that the record could support a reasonable jury finding that the defendants published these allegations with actual malice”); *Lovejoy v. Mutual Broadcasting System*, 220 S.W.2d 308, 314 (Tex. App. 1948) (statement that “plaintiff was a Nazi and Hitler sympathizer” if untrue was “libelous per se”); *Goldberg v. CBS*, 205 N.Y.S.2d 611, 613 (N.Y. Sup. 1960) (plaintiff suffered damages by reason of “involuntary defamation by implication” after being associated with a rigged game show); *Van Wiginton v. Pulitzer Pub. Co.*, 218 F. 795, 796-797 (8th Cir. 1914) (“When the picture of one person is used as that of another, whose character, conduct, or relations are made the subject of a publication, the imputation is that the original of the picture is the person mentioned in the text. In this case the imputation was that the plaintiff was the daughter of a convicted murderer, the circumstances of whose crime and defense were as set forth in the published article ... In the law of libel the social standing of a person is regarded as of value, and damage is implied from a false and unprivileged publication which tends to impair it, to make him contemptible or ridiculous, or to deprive him of the confidence, good will, or esteem of his fellow men. In determining whether the false imputation tends to impair the social standing of a person, or to affect injuriously his opportunities of social intercourse, the customs and standards of society are to be regarded. In other words, society is to be taken as it is, with its recognized prejudices, without determining whether they are well founded in reason or justice. For example, all reasonable persons would agree that grave injury might be done by falsely and widely publishing of a young woman of good character that she was the illegitimate daughter of dissolute, criminal parents, though the social prejudice excited against her personally could not be sustained in reason”); *see also MacElree v. Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc.*, 544 Pa. 117, 674 A.2d 1050 (Pa. 1996) (in reading the statement that plaintiff was “David Duke of Chester County running for office by attacking Lincoln”, a “reasonable person could conclude that this was an accusation that appellant was abusing his power as the district attorney, an elected office, to further racism and his own political aspirations”); *but compare Allen v. Beirich*, 2019 WL 5962676, at * 6 (D. Md. 2019) (plaintiff did not dispute the underlying factual assertions – namely, his ties to a white supremacist group).

to be shunned or avoided, or ... has a tendency to injure him in his occupation]... A fabricated quotation may injure reputation in at least two senses, either giving rise to a conceivable claim of defamation. First, the quotation might injure because it attributes an untrue factual assertion to the speaker ... Second, regardless of the truth or falsity of the factual matters asserted within the quoted statement, the attribution may result in injury to reputation because the manner of expression or even the fact that the statement was made indicates a negative personal trait or an attitude the speaker does not hold.”). CNN’s false statements would have had a different effect on the minds of readers from that which the truth would have produced. *See, e.g., Murphy v. Boston Globe, Inc.*, 449 Mass. 42, 865 N.E.2d 746, 758 (Mass. 2007) (“The jury were warranted in finding that the portion of the story quoting the plaintiff as saying, ‘She is [fourteen]. She got raped. Tell her to get over it,’ would lead one to believe the judge was indifferent, and even callous, to crime victims who appeared before him, and especially demeaning to the rape victim. The difference between the statement attributed to the plaintiff in the Herald articles, and the statement that Crowley testified he told Wedge the plaintiff had made, cannot, as matter of law, be characterized as a minor discrepancy protected by the First Amendment.”).

18. CNN’s false statements constitute express defamation or defamation by implication. The statements accuse and impute to Plaintiffs an unfitness to perform the duties of an office or employment for profit, including being members of a dangerous, violent, insurrectionist, domestic terrorist organization, and the promotion of conspiracy theories. CNN exposed the Flynn to threats of bodily and emotional harm from persons hell-bent on exposing “QAnon”. CNN exposed Jack to the hazard of losing his job, and

rendered him odious and unfit or less fit to fulfill the duties of General Manager of an international seafood business. CNN's false statements were neither fair nor in any way accurate.⁵

19. By broadcasting the false statements on cable television and publishing the statements on the Internet *and* republishing via social media, CNN knew or should have known that the false statements would be republished over and over by third-parties to Plaintiffs' detriment. Republication by CNN's followers, subscribers, readers, other media outlets, and by users of Twitter was the natural and probable consequence of CNN's actions and was actually and/or presumptively authorized by CNN. In addition to its original publications, CNN is liable for the republications of the false and defamatory statements by third-parties under the republication rule.

20. CNN's false and defamatory statements jeopardized Plaintiffs' safety and harmed Plaintiffs and their reputations,⁶ causing presumed damages, actual damages, special damages and pecuniary loss. In addition to the pain, emotional suffering, insult, embarrassment, humiliation, and injury to reputation, CNN's publication caused career damage, loss of future earnings, impaired and diminished earning capacity.

⁵ The defamatory nature of CNN's false statements associating Plaintiffs with QAnon is evidenced by the wholesale condemnation of QAnon in House Resolution 1094, passed on October 2, 2020. [<https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hres/1094/BILLS-116hres1094ih.pdf>].

⁶ Plaintiffs are not the only ones to be harmed by the mere association with QAnon. Recently, *Politico* published an account of the ordeal of Ezra Cohen-Watnick. <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/19/qanon-trump-ezra-cohen-watnick-460520> ("Cohen described being caught in a kind of ideological tag team as early speculation by right-wing QAnon followers that he was Q evolved into left-wing obsession with proving that he was the fraudster behind the postings").

21. CNN lacked reasonable grounds for a belief in the truth of its statements, and acted negligently in failing to determine the true facts. CNN failed to contact Plaintiffs prior to publication and had no independent evidence to corroborate that Plaintiffs were supporters or followers of QAnon because none exists.

22. CNN published the false and defamatory statements with actual or constructive knowledge that they were false or with reckless disregard for whether they were false. CNN acted with actual malice and reckless disregard for the truth:

a. CNN knew their statements about Plaintiffs were false. Based upon its review of Jack Flynn's Twitter account (@GoJackFlynn), CNN knew that Jack had tweeted messages that denied basic tenets of the QAnon movement, *e.g.*:



CNN knew that Jack Flynn embraced the Constitution and equal justice under the law, not the dangerous, extremist, racist, anti-Semitic and violent beliefs espoused by QAnon, and domestic terror organization condemned by the House of Representatives, the FBI and DHS:



General Flynn and his lawyer also expressly notified CNN that the Flynn family were not followers of QAnon:

 **Donie O'Sullivan** ✓
@donie

Flynn lawyer to [@MarshallCohen](#):

"General Flynn and I both encourage love of this great country and patriotism. Neither of us know Q but appreciate the support we have received from all in our fight for the Truth and Justice ..."



Michael Flynn posts video featuring QAnon slogans
In a video posted online over the weekend, President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, is seen using phrases and slogans ...
[cnn.com](#)

2:49 PM · Jul 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App

In spite of its actual knowledge, CNN misrepresented that Plaintiffs followed and supported QAnon and pledged allegiance to this extremist group.

b. CNN deliberately altered the video posted by General Flynn to his Twitter account in order to convey a defamatory meaning about Plaintiffs. The edits were deliberate and were made by editors and producers who were following a preconceived narrative (crafted by Zucker) to link the Flynn family members to QAnon.

c. In the wake of the storming of the Capitol, CNN's statements were intentionally extreme and outrageous. CNN knew that publication would cause a media frenzy. CNN deliberately and recklessly conveyed a false narrative about Plaintiffs to sensationalize the news. *Tomblin v. WCHS-TV8*, 2011 WL 1789770, at * 5 (4th Cir. 2011) (unpublished) ("on the question of whether WCHS-TV8 deliberately or recklessly conveyed a false message to sensationalize the news and thus to provide factual support for a finding of malice, there are disputed facts"). Knowing that its statements about the Flynn family were false, CNN intentionally published false statements in order to increase ratings, viewership and profits. CNN's decision to promote a baseless narrative about the Flynn family was part of a deliberate corporate policy that emanated from CNN's President, Jeff Zucker.

d. CNN is an agent of the Democratic Party and a Democratic Party trumpet. CNN recruits, hires and promotes journalists who share its extreme ideology and political viewpoints. CNN harbors an institutional animosity, hostility, hatred, extreme bias, spite and ill-will towards the Flynn family, and, in particular, General Flynn. This animosity, bias, prejudice and desire to harm motivated CNN to publish the intentionally false statements and insinuations about Plaintiffs at issue in this case. CNN intended to inflict harm through knowing or reckless falsehoods. CNN published the false statements as part of a broad, pretextual, premeditated and ongoing disinformation

campaign against General Flynn orchestrated by political operatives and agents of the Democratic National Committee (“DNC”) for whom CNN acts as a surrogate and bullhorn. CNN fears General Flynn. The purpose of the national campaign is to impair or abrogate General Flynn’s ability to run for political office in 2022 or 2024 or his ability to support another candidate for office. In furtherance of the scheme, CNN uses its broadcast and publishing empire, political influence and international reach to attack General Flynn and his family at each opportunity, and to sow seeds of distrust in the minds of the voting public about General Flynn by publishing false narratives and talking points provided by Democratic operatives. This is CNN’s regular way of doing business. CNN’s news is not real news. It’s sources are not real. They are political operatives. Plaintiffs were and are collateral damage in CNN’s defamation scheme.

e. CNN abandoned all journalistic standards and integrity, including CNN’s own standards and code of ethics, in writing, editing, and publishing the false narrative. CNN did not seek the truth or report it. They betrayed the truth to sensationalize the news for self-glory, profit and politics. Rather than minimize harm to Plaintiffs, CNN set out to inflict maximum pain and suffering on Plaintiffs in order to harm Plaintiffs’ reputations and belittle and besmirch General Flynn. CNN never once considered the long-term implications or the extended reach and permanence of the false accusation that Plaintiffs were affiliated with a domestic violence extremist group. CNN did not care. It intended to hurt Plaintiffs.

f. Upon information and belief, CNN and O’Sullivan have deleted or discarded their notes and other documents that laid out the plan to smear the Flynn family

in a deliberate effort to conceal what they knew were inaccuracies in the reporting. This inference, in turn, provides a strong basis for a finding of actual malice.

g. CNN reiterated, repeated and excessively caused the publication and republication of the false and defamatory statements and imputations out of a desire to hurt Plaintiffs and to permanently stigmatize them.

23. As a direct result of CNN's defamation, Plaintiffs suffered presumed damages, actual damages and special damages, including, but not limited to, insult, pain, embarrassment, humiliation, emotional suffering, injury to their reputations, lost future earnings and diminished earning capacity, costs and other out-of-pocket expenses, in the sum of \$75,000,000.00 or such greater amount as is determined by the Jury.

COUNT II – FALSE LIGHT INVASION OF PRIVACY

24. Plaintiffs restate paragraphs 1 through 23 of this Complaint, and incorporates them herein by reference.

25. By publishing the false statements on TV, online, and via social media, and by causing the republication of the statements by third-parties, CNN generated substantial publicity about the false statements of or concerning Plaintiffs. CNN ascribed to Plaintiffs actions and associations that did not exist and beliefs Plaintiffs have never held. By associating Plaintiffs with QAnon – a domestic violence extremist group – CNN placed Plaintiffs in a false light that would be offensive to any reasonable person. Given the universal condemnation of QAnon, the association published or implied would be objectionable to the ordinary reasonable man under the circumstances.

26. CNN had knowledge of or acted in reckless disregard as to the falsity of the publicized matter and the false light in which Plaintiffs would be placed by the false

statements. As a result of CNN's false statements, the entire Flynn family, including Plaintiffs, were universally condemned and threatened on Twitter by political operatives, such as Democratic Coalition co-founder and executive director, Scott Dworkin [<https://twitter.com/funder/status/1367176264436621381>] ("The entire Flynn family needs to be investigated"), who took advantage of the false light in which CNN placed the Plaintiffs. *See also* <https://twitter.com/jimstewartson/status/1369338757682503689> ("Mike Flynn is currently engaged in active treason and should be exposed in the press and arrested immediately. [...] There is no reason to believe he will stop short of active violence"); <https://twitter.com/jimstewartson/status/1367146263414640643> ("General Flynn' was one of the people 'concerned about the optics' of bringing in the National Guard while a bunch of nazis and Qultists were attacking the Capitol"); <https://twitter.com/jimstewartson/status/1358961740826910720> ("In case you needed any more proof that the FLYNN family are a despicable pack of propagandists."); <https://twitter.com/BaddCompani/status/1374786218882260994> ("Donald Trump and Don Jr have Lawyered up for their part in the Insurrection To the Flynn Family hint hint. INCOMING!!").

27. CNN's actions constitute a false light invasion of Plaintiffs' privacy.

28. As a direct result of CNN's false light invasion of privacy, Plaintiffs suffered presumed damages, actual damages and special damages, including, but not limited to, insult, pain, embarrassment, humiliation, emotional suffering, injury to their reputations, lost future earnings and diminished earning capacity, reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other out-of-pocket expenses, in the sum of \$75,000,000.00 or such greater amount as is determined by the Jury.

Plaintiffs allege the foregoing based upon personal knowledge, public statements of others, and records in their possession. Plaintiffs believe that substantial additional evidentiary support, which is in the exclusive possession of CNN, Cooper, O'Sullivan, their agents and other third-parties, will exist for the allegations and claims set forth above after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

Plaintiffs reserve their right to amend this Complaint upon discovery of additional instances of CNN's wrongdoing.

CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request the Court to enter Judgment against CNN as follows:

- A. Compensatory damages in the sum of \$75,000,000.00;
- B. Punitive damages in the maximum amount allowed by law;
- C. Prejudgment interest on the principal sum awarded by the Jury at the maximum rate allowed by law from January 6, 2021 until Judgment is entered;
- D. Postjudgment interest;
- E. Reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other recoverable amounts as allowed by law;
- F. Such other relief as is just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED

DATED: March 25, 2021

JOHN P. "JACK" FLYNN
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