

Exhibit 68

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BLAKE LIVELY,

Plaintiff,

- v - 24 - cv - 10049 (lead case);
25 - cv - 449

WAYFARER STUDIOS LLC, JUSTIN BALDONI,
JAMEY HEATH, STEVE SAROWITZ, IT ENDS WITH
US MOVIE LLC, MELISSA NATHAN, THE AGENCY
GROUP PR LLC, JENNIFER ABEL, JED WALLACE,
STREET RELATIONS INC.,

Defendants.

№. 1:24-cv-10049-LJL

(Consolidated with 1:25-cv-00449-LJL)

WAYFARER STUDIOS LLC, JUSTIN BALDONI, JAMEY HEATH, IT ENDS WITH US MOVIE LLC, MELISSA NATHAN, and JENNIFER ABEL,

Plaintiffs,

- V -

BLAKE LIVELY, RYAN REYNOLDS, LESLIE
SLOANE, VISION PR, INC., THE NEW YORK
TIMES COMPANY,

Defendants.

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
LESLIE SLOANE
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
September 26, 2025

Reported By:
ERIC J. FINZ

LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

2 A. Yup. 03:16:02

3 Q. And did you call her an 03:16:02

4 asshole because according to James from 03:16:04

5 the Daily Mail she was leaking stories to 03:16:06

6 him? 03:16:08

7 MS. ANASTASIO: Objection. 03:16:11

8 MS. McCAWLEY: Objection. 03:16:15

9 MS. GOVERNSKI: Objection. 03:16:18

10 Q. Or for another reason? 03:16:19

11 A. Because as I was, as I stated 03:16:21

earlier, I thought she was leaking the 03:16:23

13 stories. 03:16:23

14 (Reporter clarification.) 03:16:23

15 A. Leaking, or giving, or what 03:16:29

16 they use as their favorite word, seeding 03:16:30

17 or planting. 03:16:32

18 Q. Who is "they"? You said 03:16:38

19 "their favorite word." 03:16:41

20 A. The publicists who were 03:16:43

21 involved in this case. 03:16:45

22 Q. Have you ever seeded a story? 03:16:46

23 A. No. 03:16:48

24 Q. Have you ever planted a story? 03:16:48

25 A. No. 03:16:50

1 LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

2 Q. Help him win what? 04:04:49

3 A. The attack, the smear campaign 04:04:53

4 that was starting. 04:04:57

5 Q. How do you know Justin Baldoni 04:04:59

6 had anything to do with any negative 04:05:00

7 press that Ms. Lively was receiving as of 04:05:04

8 August 13th? 04:05:07

9 MS. GOVERNNSKI: Objection. 04:05:08

10 A. I base it on him hiring 04:05:09

11 Melissa Nathan. 04:05:12

12 Q. So you assume that because 04:05:13

13 Justin Baldoni hired Melissa Nathan, that 04:05:15

14 they had done something to plant or seed 04:05:17

15 negative stories about Blake Lively. Is 04:05:20

16 that your testimony? 04:05:22

17 MS. McCAWLEY: Objection. 04:05:24

18 MS. GOVERNNSKI: Objection. 04:05:24

19 A. I can add to that by telling 04:05:25

20 that you Melissa Nathan shared with me 04:05:27

21 that he did do some things, that's why 04:05:29

22 she was brought in. When we were on the 04:05:31

23 phone. When I was in Los Angeles. 04:05:33

24 Q. Do you have an answer to my 04:05:35

25 question? 04:05:36

LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

MS. McCAWLEY: Objection; 04:05:37

asked and answered. 04:05:38

A. So I'm sorry, please repeat 04:05:38

04 : 05 : 39

Q. So you assume that because 04:05:39

Justin had hired Melissa Nathan that they 04:05:41

had done something to plant or seed 04:05:44

negative stories about Blake Lively; that 04:05:45

04:05:47 your testimony?

MS. GOVERNSKI: Objection. 04:05:48

MS. McCAWLEY: Objection. 04:05:48

A. My testimony I believe -- I'm 04:05:49

04:06:01 sorry, please just repeat that one more

time. I'm getting a little tired. So 04:06:02

please repeat that. 04:06:04

Q. we can take a break in a 04:06:05

04:06:07

A. I don't want a break. I just 04:06:08

want to repeat that. 04:06:09

Q. I asked you, now do you know 04:06:10

Justin Baldoni had anything to do with 04:06:12

the negative press that Mr. Elvery was 04:06:13

receiving as of August 13th. Do you 04:06:15

recall that question that I asked you? 04:06:17

1 LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

2 A. Yes. And I answered because 04:06:18

3 he hired Melissa Nathan, correct. 04:06:20

4 Q. So are you assuming that 04:06:22

5 because Justin Baldoni hired Melissa 04:06:24

6 Nathan that he had done anything to smear 04:06:27

7 Blake Lively's reputation? 04:06:32

8 MS. McCAWLEY: Objection. 04:06:33

9 A. I'm not assuming. Melissa 04:06:34

10 Nathan did share with me on a phone call 04:06:36

11 that she was hired to come in to clean 04:06:39

12 his messes up. That he was lucky to have 04:06:41

13 her. He did some stupid things. So 04:06:44

14 yeah. 04:06:46

15 Q. Did she tell you that she was 04:06:47

16 going to seed or plant negative press 04:06:49

17 about Blake Lively on Justin's behalf? 04:06:51

18 A. It was the opposite. She told 04:06:54

19 me she wasn't doing it. 04:06:56

20 Q. Okay. So again, what basis 04:06:57

21 did you have to believe that Justin 04:06:59

22 Baldoni or Melissa Nathan had anything to 04:07:03

23 do with the negative press that Blake 04:07:06

24 Lively was receiving as of August 13th? 04:07:08

25 MS. GOVERNNSKI: Objection. 04:07:10

LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

2 MS. McCAWLEY: Objection; 04:07:11

3 asked and answered. 04:07:12

4 A. My knowledge in the industry 04:07:12

5 and the fact that Melissa is a crisis 04:07:13

6 manager. 04:07:16

7 Q. You made an assumption; 04:07:16

8 correct? 04:07:17

9 A. NO. 04:07:17

10 MS. McCAWLEY: Objection. 04:07:18

11 Q. Oh. So what facts is it based 04:07:18

12 | on? 04:07:21

13 MS. GOVERNSKI: Objection. 04:07:21

14 MS. McCAWLEY: Join. 04:07:22

15 Q. You can answer. 04:07:27

16 A. Oh, thank you. 04:07:28

17 Facts that Melissa shared with 04:07:29

18 me that he did make some mistakes and he 04:07:31

19 did do some things, that that's why they 04:07:33

20 brought her in. 04:07:35

21 Q. Right. 04:07:35

22 You just testified that she 04:07:36

23 didn't tell you that she was going to be 04:07:38

24 doing anything to seed or plant or create 04:07:39

25 negative press about Ms. Lively. 04:07:41

1 LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
2 than one thing from James? I'm 05:57:41
3 sorry, I have to read the email, 05:57:42
4 all the paperwork from James. 05:57:46
5 I feel the fact that you're 05:59:32
6 asking me that question that it's 05:59:33
7 somewhere here. 05:59:35
8 Q. Why do you assume that? 05:59:35
9 A. Because every time you ask me 05:59:36
10 a question you produce a document. I've 05:59:38
11 noticed your pattern. I pick up on 05:59:40
12 things. And I'm not going to get in 05:59:43
13 trouble for this. 05:59:52
14 MR. FRITZ: I'm happy to 05:59:53
15 withdraw the question and move on. 05:59:54
16 It's not in any of the documents 05:59:56
17 I've shown you so far. 05:59:58
18 THE WITNESS: Then thank you, 05:59:59
19 please move on. Because I can't 06:00:01
20 answer that. 06:00:02
21 Q. Did James from the Daily Mail 06:00:06
22 ever tell you that Melissa Nathan had not 06:00:08
23 done anything anti-Blake? 06:00:13
24 Do you recall that? 06:00:16
25 MS. GOVERNNSKI: Objection. 06:00:17

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1 LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

2 MS. McCAWLEY: Join. 06:00:18

3 A. Yes. 06:00:19

4 Q. Did you, at the time, have any 06:00:19

5 reason to disbelieve him? 06:00:22

6 A. In that case, knowing their 06:00:26

7 friendship, I questioned it. 06:00:28

8 Q. Okay. 06:00:32

9 A. And her close relationship 06:00:35

10 with the Daily Mail and the entire L.A. 06:00:37

11 office. And that her sister over the 06:00:39

12 years had told me how close they were to 06:00:41

13 all the women at the Daily Mail. Yes. 06:00:44

14 Q. Have you ever seen any 06:00:46

15 documents, emails, text messages from 06:00:54

16 Melissa Nathan to anyone demonstrating 06:00:58

17 that Melissa Nathan caused anything 06:01:02

18 negative to be written about Blake 06:01:05

19 Lively? 06:01:07

20 MS. GOVERNISKI: Objection. 06:01:07

21 MS. McCAWLEY: Objection. 06:01:08

22 A. I've seen texts in the 06:01:11

23 complaints that we can -- that she made a 06:01:15

24 reference to a reporter that Jen Abel had 06:01:22

25 or Jen Abel did both of them, they had 06:01:25

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1 LESLIE SLOANE - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

2 C E R T I F I C A T E

3 STATE OF NEW YORK)

4 : ss.

5 COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

6 I, ERIC J. FINZ, a Shorthand
7 Reporter and Notary Public within and for
8 the State of New York, do hereby certify:9 That LESLIE SLOANE, the witness
10 whose deposition is hereinbefore set
11 forth, was duly sworn by me and that such
12 deposition is a true record of the
13 testimony given by the witness.14 I further certify that I am not
15 related to any of the parties to this
16 action by blood or marriage, and that I
17 am in no way interested in the outcome of
18 this matter.19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
20 set my hand this 29th day of September,
21 2025.

22

23



24

ERIC J. FINZ