

## **DECLARATION OF JONATHAN WORNICK**

I, Jonathan Wornick, make this declaration freely.

1. I am an adult citizen of California. I make this declaration on the basis of personal knowledge.
2. I have reviewed the Motion to Strike Prejudicial Statements filed by the California College of the Arts (“CCA”) in this case, in which CCA has represented to this Court that certain statements appearing in Plaintiff’s filings in this matter are scandalous and, as a result, have damaged CCA’s ability to raise funds.
3. This claim is false.
4. For many years, my family has been one of the principal supporters of CCA. My parents have donated over a million dollars to CCA over the years, and my parents had, until recently, directed that at the death of the last survivor, a bequest valued at over two million dollars be made to CCA.
5. Beginning in the fall of 2023, my family became deeply concerned about antisemitism at CCA.
6. This concern was created by the fact that, at CCA, the response to Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was praise and applause.
7. In particular, our family was deeply offended by an Instagram post issued by CCA’s Critical Ethnic Studies Department trumpeting the phrase “Decolonization is not a dinner party”; by CCA’s embrace of this post, and by its refusal to disavow it or the hatred that is expressed in this phrase.
8. I became aware of that Instagram post through an associate not affiliated with CCA on October 21, 2023.

9. This post was liked and retweeted by many faculty, students, administrators and entire departments at CCA.
10. The statement that “decolonization is not a dinner party” means that violence is justified as the appropriate and necessary solution for the injustice of colonization. When invoked about Israel, it constitutes the assertions that (a) the Jewish presence and Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel are acts of colonization—thus denying the deep historical connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel and that (b) violence, including torture, incineration, rape, murder and kidnapping, are all justified as a means towards the goal of removing the Jews from that land.
11. By trumpeting this phrase as a response to the events of October 7, 2023, CCA, and those of its faculty, students, administrators and departments who “liked” that response, are stating explicitly that the atrocities committed by Hamas on that day, in the course of which Hamas members and supporters slaughtered 1200 human beings, were desirable, justified and praiseworthy actions. This is the simple and direct meaning of the statement that CCA, its faculty, students, administrators, and departments adopted as their own.
12. I confronted CCA's leadership, namely, CCA President, Stephen Beal via email on October 21, 2023, when I learned of this post and its adoption by CCA, and demanded that it be taken down, and that CCA publicly reject the claims made therein. My demands were initially rebuffed. Several follow up in person discussions, phone calls, and Zoom meetings with various administration staff and CCA Board President Lorna Myers, proved entirely fruitless. On December 15, 2023, I had a Zoom meeting with the new CCA President, David Howse. On that call, he expressed that CCA saw no reason to

remove the Instagram post, to apologize, or take any action, and fully understood that we might pull our family's funding and/or go public with the story.

13. As the result of CCA's response, On December 21, 2023, I published an article in the media outlet the *Times of Israel*, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, in which I explained my view that the phrase "decolonization is not a dinner party," when used to describe and praise the actions of Hamas in Israel on October 7, 2023, was profoundly antisemitic.

14. As I explained in that article,

One week after the massacre in Israel. CCA's Critical Ethnic Studies department posted on Instagram their unwavering support for "resistance" against Israel's "colonial" legacy. The image included in the post is of a protest sign that reads, "DECOLONIZATION IS NOT A DINNER PARTY." In other words, the October 7th massacre that included beheadings, rapes, and the taking of civilian hostages was justified. Get over it!

15. I further explained that all parts of CCA supported and adopted and praised this idea:

This post came from an official Instagram account RUN BY THE SCHOOL, not from a professor's personal account. Adding insult to injury, it is "liked" by other CCA departments, including the Wattis Institute and the MFA Writing Department. See for yourself. It remains public here:  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CyYkCFzljHI/>.

16. In fact, CCA has refused to disavow these statements, although ultimately my family's threat of ceasing our donations perhaps directly resulted in CCA's taking the post down.

But CCA has never acknowledged that the statement was morally wrong in any way.

17. As a result, despite the fact that the CCA wood furniture studio retains our name, and the endowed annual Wornick furniture scholarships continue, my family no longer financially supports CCA.

18. To enable my family to remove CCA from our parents' bequests, we brought a petition in California Superior Court in February of this year explaining that CCA's actions were profoundly antisemitic and that the entire CCA campus has become a hotbed of

antisemitism; that our parents were committed Jews who would never have wanted to gift money to an institution that has behaved the way CCA has, and that is so completely tainted by hatred of the Jewish State and the Jewish people. An unsigned copy of that petition is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

19. The San Mateo County Superior Court granted that petition for the reasons set forth in the Petition. A copy of the Court's signed order is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

20. I agree wholeheartedly with CCA's current position in its Motion to Strike that the statement "decolonization is not a dinner party" is scandalous. However, the scandal is CCC's own—it is the disgrace of an institution actively promoting Jew-hatred and the murder of Jews. The plaintiff's quotation of these statements and her explanation of their meaning in her filings in this case are not at all scandalous—they are simply reporting the truth about what CCA has said and about the reigning orthodoxy of antisemitism on the CCA campus, as I personally discovered.

21. CCA is also correct that these statements, made and supported by CCA, have prejudiced CCA's funding. CCA's refusal to disavow these antisemitic statements was the cause for my family's decision (and other major Jewish donors) to cease supporting CCA. Those statements, and CCA's embrace of those statements, have indeed caused CCA a very substantial financial loss. However, no such loss was caused by any of the plaintiff's filings in this case. By the time this case had been filed, the damage to CCA had already been done. And it was entirely self-inflicted. Nothing stated by the plaintiff in her filings in this case caused me or my family to reduce our financial support for CCA. In fact, I was unaware of the plight or even existence of Dr. Karen Fiss until well after my article appeared in the *Times of Israel*.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a final vertical stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

Executed on 12/12/24