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Case #18CV334547  
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7 Attorneys for Plaintiff, Jonathan Del Arroz

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
9 COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10 JONATHAN DEL ARROZ,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 SAN FRANCISCO SCIENCE FICTION  
14 CONVENTIONS, INC. (“SFSFC”) aka  
15 “WORLDCON76” David W. Gallaher (2019),  
16 President; David W. Clark (2020), Vice  
17 President; Lisa Detusch Harrigan (2020),  
18 Treasurer; Kevin Standlee (2018), Secretary;  
19 Sandra Childress (2019); Bruce Farr (2018),  
20 Chair; 2018 SMOF Con Committee; Cheryl  
21 Morgan (2020); Kevin Roche (2018), Chair;  
22 2018 Worldcon (Worldcon 76) Committee;  
23 Cindy Scott (2018); Randy Smith (2019), Chair;  
24 New Zealand 2020 Worldcon Agent Committee;  
25 Andy Trembley (2020); Jennifer “Radar” Wylie  
26 (2019), Chair; CostumeCon 2021 Organizing  
27 Committee; Lori Buschhaum; Susie Rodriguez  
28 and DOES 1 through 30, inclusive,

Defendants.

) CASE NO. 18-CV-334547

) DECLARATION OF JONATHAN DEL  
) ARROZ IN SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION  
) TO MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
) JUDGMENT

) Date May 11, 2021

) Time 9:00 a.m.

) Dept 20

) Judge Honorable Socrates P. Manoukian

) Action Filed: April 16, 2018

) Trial Date: June 14, 2021

1 I, Jonathan Del Arroz, declare:

2 1. I am the plaintiff in the above-entitled action. I know the facts contained herein of  
3 my personal knowledge. I would be competent to testify if called as a witness.

4 2. I began my career in writing around 2010, when I made a web comic which was  
5 getting good clicks. People loved the story and I started reaching out to local conventions to speak,  
6 sell copies of the book, and network in hopes of getting a publishing deal. I started working with  
7 game companies to do their background worlds and flavor for card games and sold short stories on  
8 the market to very reputable publishers. Eventually, I was able to get a book deal with a game  
9 company to produce a novelization of a card game, *Star Realms: Rescue Run*, in October 2016.  
10 During this time, I was invited to speak at local conventions in the Bay Area, such as Convolution  
11 and BayCon, and made some great friends during the process. My editor was nominated for The  
12 Hugo Award and all appeared to be going well for my budding career in sci-fi writing.

13 3. Over the summer of 2016, I experienced physical harassment and threats because of  
14 my participation in supporting the Donald Trump for President campaign. For example, I went to  
15 the now infamous Trump rally in San Jose, held at the same convention center as WorldCon76,  
16 where several people were attacked outside of the convention center. I was personally stalked,  
17 harassed, and threatened after the rally. I was photographed and cursed by people I did not know. I  
18 was lucky compared to several people who went to that rally. I wrote to the San Jose City Council  
19 that as a local businessman, I needed to be safe in San Jose, but I received no reply.

20 4. I have been threatened or attacked on other occasions because of my announced  
21 support of Donald Trump's candidacy. For example, in August 2016, at Lake Tahoe, I wore a red  
22 hat bearing the Trump Campaign's slogan, "Make America Great Again" (also known as a "MAGA  
23 hat") while boating. While I was parking my boat at a pier where there is a bar, some men at the bar  
24 saw our hats and started chucking glass bottles at my head. We had to leave the dock. These are  
25 instances of intimidation and assault which are common for people who wear MAGA hats.

26 5. Just as the book was about to release in November 2016, everything changed. The  
27 election of President Trump sent my friends and contacts from the publishing industry into a circle  
28 of outrage, pointing fingers at people who voted for the president as if we were some sort of monsters  
or "Nazis" as they often called us. My editor had her assistant send me a lengthy email because of a

1 post I made to Facebook which had a picture of me wearing a MAGA hat. In that post, I said I was  
2 happy for the election of the President. The email warned me that the author community is small,  
3 and that they see what I post. I would likely never be invited to be published again.

4         6.       I was shocked by this behavior by professionals. This was my first taste of how  
5 science fiction community harbored people with extremist political philosophies who pushed out or  
6 blacklisted people with moderately conservative or libertarian views.

7         7.       Tensions escalated locally. Susie Rodriguez (who was part of Worldcon 76's staff),  
8 was the head of programming for Baycon. She became angry on social media one day because of a  
9 hoax news story where it was claimed President Trump supporters were going around putting  
10 swastikas on minorities cars to instill fear into them (the news story was proven false later when the  
11 "victim" admitted to doing it themselves for attention). On social media, she started saying awful  
12 things about people who voted for the president, to which I took exception and attempted to speak  
13 with her privately about. This was the end of our friendship as politics became the most important  
14 thing to her, and fun and science fiction no longer mattered. Like many on the extreme left in the  
15 days after the election, in her mind she vilified me because of my vote. She subsequently dropped  
16 me from speaking at BayCon, the next year, even though my successful debut novel had just come  
17 out. I spoke with other regularly invited speakers, including Dario Ciriello, who was invited to speak  
18 despite not having published anything relevant in the field in years. He told me it appeared to be  
19 politically motivated, as everyone from our little circle was invited to speak except for me. He also  
20 informed me had sent an email to BayCon stating he would not be coming because their convention  
21 had become too political and less about what it's intended to be about—Science Fiction and Fantasy  
22 writing.

23         8.       I was devastated. I loved both my editor and Susie Rodriguez. I'd felt kinship with  
24 them because of our bonds through science fiction culture and community. I was not sure what to  
25 do about it because I was being ostracized by everyone in the community for my political affiliations.  
26 It had gone from years of friendship, to losing dozens of friends all in a matter of weeks over the  
27 election. I'd witnessed how other conservative writers such as Brad Torgersen and Larry Correia  
28 were treated by these people—they spoke about any conservative author with ire, dehumanizing  
them and worse. I saw that this was what was beginning to happen to me for daring to vote how I

1 felt was correct and for being open about it. I called out the situation in a blog post where I was very  
2 careful not to make any personal attacks, but to call on the convention to not have politics invade  
3 the space where attendees are supposed to have fun.

4       9.       A science fiction gossip website called File 770 immediately picked up the piece,  
5 calling me a liar and worse. The commenters on the site—big professional names in the industry  
6 like SFWA president Cat Rambo and famed comic writer Kurt Busiek—started lambasting me. I’d  
7 never interacted with most of these people at all, but I saw what File 770 did immediately: they  
8 posted a picture of me with a Make America Great Again Trump hat, holding an American flag.  
9 They were clearly trying to destroy my career because of my Trump support. The people at  
10 WorldCon 76 read File 770. WorldCon 76 maintained a Facebook page where some people were  
11 authorized by WorldCon 76 to post under the name “WorldCon 76.” Attached hereto as Exhibit A  
12 is a true and correct copy a comment from the thread under World Con 76’s announcement that I  
13 had been banned, which acknowledges being influenced by File 770.

14       10.       After 2016, I continued to build my career. I was determined to work harder than the  
15 rest of the industry in order to succeed. I released a 2nd novel and a novella within a 3-month span.  
16 I self-published these books, which means that I released them directly through Amazon without a  
17 publishing house. I then self-promoted these books through my presence on social media, including  
18 Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. This self-publication approach is used by thousands of people,  
19 which makes it difficult for any particular author to get noticed by the general public, much less  
20 beyond a small group of readers. These books became immensely popular among many readers  
21 interested in the Steampunk subgenre. The Steampunk subgenre was what I was specializing in and  
22 represents a small segment of books published under the general heading of science fiction/fantasy.  
23 “Steampunk” involves writing in a fantasy setting where the technology and mores of 19<sup>th</sup> century  
24 England are extrapolated to modern times. “Steampunk” is a niche market. Around this time in the  
25 summer, I was subjected to harassment by people who I believed were the fans of SFWA President  
26 Cat Rambo. Cat Rambo ran a facebook/social media messaging campaign against me to warn  
27 authors not to associate with me because of politics, referring to one of my articles as “Alt-Numbers”  
28 – a reference to the alt-right (of which I am not a part).

1           11.     Also, over the summer of 2017, I interested a group of conservative authors in the  
2 idea of going to WorldCon 76 together. My goal was to attend Worldcon76, set up a table/booth to  
3 sell books and show audience members we're good authors. It was going to be a good event for us,  
4 because many people dehumanize the conservatives online and don't interact with them on a  
5 personal level. I hoped to change that and to sell a lot of books in the process. Several authors were  
6 going to come with me, and we were going to peacefully sell books like any other vendor at the  
7 convention. These other authors backed out when they saw the postings going on at File 770 and  
8 other sites; they told me that they were afraid of coming under the kind of threats and bullying I was  
9 receiving. They also told me that they were afraid of being physically attacked at WorldCon76 by  
10 angry members of the leftwing science fiction community.

11           12.     I was in contact with WorldCon Chairman Kevin Roche at this time. He responded  
12 to one of my emails asking about renting a table at the convention, offering the table to me and my  
13 companions. But at this point, my companions had already backed out of the idea of going to the  
14 convention. I tried to convince authors to come, but they were too afraid of the hostile environment  
15 created by political activists. Their fear was someone would attack them or frame them for a crime  
16 at the convention. I emailed Kevin my findings and asked him if there was anything that could be  
17 done about this to protect conservative authors from harassment. He did not respond. I wrote the  
18 following to Kevin Roche in my email: ""Hi Kevin. Just following up here. After talking to a lot of  
19 the guys there's a lot of serious concern for safety just with the way this year has gone. Most have  
20 bowed out of the idea of attending and I'm on the fence myself (I've had some folk from SFWA doxx  
21 my children on the internet and send unsolicited packages to my house upon finding my address). I  
22 wish it were a bit different, but it looks like conventions might not be a spot where conservative  
23 authors can attend safely anymore." Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of my  
24 email to Kevin Roche.

25           13.     I wanted to be able to exercise my right as an author to attend these conventions,  
26 speak to professionals, and to access public accommodations within the industry without fear of  
27 intimidation, harassment, bullying, or being physically assaulted. Since the venue of WorldCon76  
28 was close to my hometown, it was important to me to be part of the local science fiction community  
and to show myself as an active participating member. I talked to several people regarding how I

1 could remain safe and there was consensus: I needed to bring people with me to guard me since  
2 security would not respond, and to have a camera on me at all times in case of assault or someone  
3 making a false accusation against me.

4 14. Part of my concern was an article I read about leftwingers trying to goad  
5 conservatives into reaction so that they could then portray the conservative as a danger. On or about  
6 September 21,2017, I read an article by Megan Fox on PJ Media which entitled "Facebook Page  
7 Reveals Marvel, DC Comics Writers Conspiring to Harass Comic-Con Conservatives," which  
8 reported a person saying that "I'd love to follow him around trying to goad him into throwing a  
9 punch" in an effort to have a conservative banned from the convention under false pretenses. A  
10 similar played out where Catholic high school students from Covington Catholic High School  
11 wearing MAGA hats were vilified as racists where a deceptive video was released purportedly  
12 showing them yelling at an older Native American. This news story turned around within a few  
13 hours only because someone had another video showing that the high school students had not done  
14 what they were accused of.

15 15. I purchased an attending membership for WorldCon 76 that would allow me to  
16 participate in all of the WorldCon76 activities, including voting on the Hugo awards. I paid only  
17 \$50 toward this membership, as permitted by WorldCon76, but I intended to pay the rest before  
18 WorldCon76 in August of 2018.

19 16. I posted that I was going to be joining the professional organization for science fiction  
20 writers, known as the Science Fiction Writers Association ("SFWA") on December 19th, 2017 as is  
21 my right since I qualified as a professional science fiction author. It is an honor to qualify that not  
22 many achieve in the industry and I wanted that credential, and as I posted on Twitter, I wanted to  
23 vote in officer elections to help the guild. I was excited to hobnob with big-name authors at  
24 Worldcon76 in their convention suite (limited to members) and also posted such, but I also  
25 understood there were SFWA members like the aforementioned Ms. Rambo who wanted to harm  
26 me. I posted "I will be recording with a bodycam for anyone who is thinking of hijinx," as I didn't  
27 want anyone to think they could get away with assaulting me at the convention, and knew several  
28 authors were looking at my post. My reference to "hijinx" was directly connected to the concern I  
had communicated to Kevin Roche that I might be physically assaulted or made the victim of some

1 effort to portray me as the aggressor of physical violence. My reference to “hijinx” was about  
2 “hijinx” threatened against me. I would have been very foolish to do anything since not only is it  
3 not my nature, but I knew that I would be outnumbered by people who had expressed hostility and  
4 anger against me without ever meeting me. Also, at the time I posted my comment about going to  
5 the SFWA suite, I planned to apply for membership in the SFWA. I expected to be a member of the  
6 SFWA and therefore entitled to enter the SFWA suite as a matter of membership. With respect to  
7 Kevin Roche’s deposition testimony claiming that I had posted a request for suggestions about what  
8 I could do “to trigger hinjinx” is false. I never wrote such a post or made such a request.

9           17.       Approximately two weeks later, out of the blue, as far as I was concerned, Worldcon  
10 76 sent me an email that said, among other things, that I was banned from all WorldCon76 sites,  
11 including hotels, because I allegedly planned on “engendering a hostile environment” at WorldCon  
12 76 guests. The email I received on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 5:01 p.m., from Lori Buschbaum,  
13 who identified herself as the "Incident Response Team area head" for Worldcon76 said: "Jonathan,  
14 At this time we are converting your membership to Worldcon76 to a supporting membership as you  
15 will not be permitted to attend the convention. On your personal blog you have made it clear that  
16 you are both expecting and planning on engendering a hostile environment which we do not allow.  
17 If you are found on the premises of the convention center or any of the official convention hotels  
18 you will be removed. Your payment of \$50 covers the cost of your supporting membership in its  
19 entirety, and you have no balance owing. As a supporting member your nomination and voting rights  
20 for the Hugo Awards and site selection are maintained. If you prefer a full refund that can be  
21 arranged." A true and correct copy of this communication is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Lori  
22 Buschbaum was identified by WorldCon 76 as an officer and representative of WorldCon 76.  
23 Attached hereto as Exhibit D is a true and correct copy of a comment downloaded from WorldCon  
24 76’s Facebook page. Lori Buschbaum has posted anti-Trump posts and comments equating Trump  
25 and/or Trump policies with Nazism. Attached hereto as Exhibit E are true and correct copies of said  
26 social media posts or comments from Lori Buschbaum.

27           18.       Buschbaum’s statements were false. I did not intend to engender a hostile  
28 environment. I had made no such claim or statement on my blog or in any other format. My

1 intentions were what I have said they were in this declaration, namely, to network peacefully, meet  
2 other people, sell books and demonstrate that conservative authors were not bad people.

3 19. My banning was without any warning. No one from WorldCon 76 spoke to me about  
4 my plans or intentions or raised any concern about my acting improperly. No one from WorldCon  
5 76 replied to the concerns I had raised with Kevin Roche that there was a hostile environment  
6 directed against me and other conservatives.

7 20. The only basis that I am aware for the hostility was because I was a Trump supporter.  
8 Influential leftwing science fiction blogs like File 770 identified me as a Trump supporter. My  
9 problems with the science fiction community, including my ostracism from editors, other writers  
10 and science fiction conventions, occurred only after my support for President Trump was made  
11 known. I know that many members of the board of WorldCon76 are very vocal anti-Trump activists.  
12 I have gleaned this information from reading their Twitter postings, blogs and online comments.

13 21. I emailed my phone number to Roche, asking to talk about the situation like adults,  
14 but they refused to reply. Attached hereto as Exhibit P is a true and correct copy of my email to  
15 Kevin Roche. I never received a response to this email.

16 22. I then discovered WorldCon76's horrific social media post claiming that I was  
17 banned because I allegedly intended to engage in racist bullying at WorldCon76 and that my banning  
18 was in an effort to remove "racist bullying." WorldCon 76's also falsely posted that my banning was  
19 because I had "made it clear that [I] fully intended to break [WorldCon 76's] code of Conduct. The  
20 social media post on the WorldCon76 Facebook site said the following: ""Worldcon 76 has chosen  
21 to reduce Jonathan Del Arroz's membership from attending to supporting. He will not be allowed to  
22 attend the convention in person. Mr. Del Arroz's supporting membership preserves his rights to  
23 participate in the Hugo Awards nomination and voting process. He was informed of our decision via  
24 email. We have taken this step because he has made it clear that he fully intends to break our code  
25 of conduct. We take that seriously. WorldconT6 strives to be an inclusive place in fandom, as  
26 difficult as that can be, and racist and bullying behavior is not acceptable at our Worldcon. This  
27 expulsion is one step toward eliminating such behavior and was not taken lightly. The senior staff  
28 and board are in agreement about the decision and it is final." A true and correct copy of this



1 announcement is attached hereto as Exhibit F. A true and correct copy of WorldCon 76's  
2 announcement on its Facebook page is attached hereto as Exhibit G.

3       23. This statement was false in many ways. First, I never intended to break  
4 WorldCon76's Code of Conduct. In fact, I had no idea what they were talking about. I thought they  
5 were talking about my plan to carry my cell phone as a "bodycam" to protect myself from physical  
6 violence and false allegations. Attached hereto as Exhibit H is a true and correct copy of a comment  
7 by WorldCon 76 in the comment thread under its announcement of my banning saying that the issue  
8 was my intended use of a bodycam. If that was the case, no one had told me that using a cell phone  
9 as a bodycam was against the rules, I had seen other people at other conventions using bodycams,  
10 and nothing in WorldCon76's Code of Conduct said that using bodycams (or cell phones) violated  
11 WorldCon 76's Code of Conduct. The bottom line is that no one from WorldCon76 spoke to me  
12 about what they thought I planned on doing. No one from WorldCon76 explained their rules to me.  
13 No one from WorldCon76 investigated to find out if I was planning to violate any rules. No one  
14 from WorldCon76 spoke to me about their concerns that I allegedly planned on engaging in racist  
15 and bullying behavior which required my expulsion.

16       24. In fact, I had no plans to engage in any such racist or bullying behavior. My plan was  
17 what I have said in this declaration, namely to go to WorldCon76 peacefully, sell books, network  
18 and show that conservatives are not bad people.

19       25. In addition, I am not a racist. I am Hispanic. I use the slogan of "the leading hispanic  
20 voice in science fiction" partly as a tongue in cheek bit of puffery and partly because I am proud of  
21 my heritage and partly because the very well-known science fiction author Larry Corriea is also  
22 Hispanic. I have condemned racism repeatedly. I have condemned antisemitism. I have condemned  
23 racism on other occasions. Attached hereto as Exhibit I are true and correct copies of some of my  
24 posts condemning racism.

25       26. I also condemn bullying. I have been the victim of bullying. After I became a known  
26 Trump supporter someone sent a package to my house which – when we opened it – caused glitter  
27 in the shape of penises to spread everywhere. Dousing people with glitter is something that leftwing  
28 activists have done to conservatives. The package had a spring-loaded mechanism which shot glitter  
everywhere, including to places where my small children could see it. While glitter may not seem

1 like a problem, this package was sent to my home where I live with my wife and children. If the  
2 package had contained something more dangerous my family would have been put at risk. In  
3 addition, the message that was sent to me was that there were people who knew where I live and  
4 were willing to mess with me at my home. Attached hereto as Exhibit J is a true and correct copy of  
5 a Twitter post where I called out someone for posting my child's personal information on the  
6 internet. Attached hereto as Exhibit K is a true and correct copy of posts about "punching Nazis,"  
7 which is the term this same person used to identify Trump supporters. This person was permitted to  
8 attend WorldCon 76.

9         27. I have condemned bullying in my writings. One of my good friends is Erin Smith,  
10 who is a transsexual. She was the person who went with me to WorldCon76 in August of 2019 to  
11 see if I could finally buy a ticket. We recorded that effort. WorldCon76 identified me and told me  
12 that they would not let me buy a ticket.

13         28. After WorldCon76 posted its statement about expelling me, it shut off comments so  
14 that my banning could not be discussed.

15         29. The only other person banned from any other WorldCon, apart from myself, was  
16 Walter Breen, the husband of science fiction author Marion Zimmer Bradley. Breen was banned for  
17 only one of the several days of the WorldCon because he was a convicted pedophile.

18         30. To my knowledge from reading the WorldCon76 social media site and left-wing  
19 science fiction sites, there was no discussion or debate about banning me before the decision was  
20 announced. The decision to ban me was a surprise to me. I never participated in any discussion  
21 about banning me. Exhibit L to this declaration is a true and correct copy of WorldCon 76's post  
22 about banning me. A lot of people in the comments said they did not know who I was. Likewise  
23 there was no public controversy about my "wearing a bodycam," or anyone wearing a bodycam,  
24 until WorldCon 76 announced that it was banning me.

25         31. I currently have approximately 5,000 Twitter followers. Back in 2018, I had  
26 approximately 2,500 Twitter followers. This is not a large number compared to well-known science  
27 fiction writers. John Scalzi – a former president of the Science Fiction Writers Association – has  
28 around 159,000 followers according to Twitter. David Brin, a writer with several Hugos has around  
50,000. Attached hereto as Exhibit M is a true and correct copy of screenshots taken from these

1 writers' Twitter pages. A true and correct copy of a screenshot from my Twitter page in 2019 is  
2 provided as a comparison in Exhibit N. The number of followers I have is not large compared to  
3 such established names. In addition, it is not uncommon for a person to follow many people on  
4 Twitter simultaneously. For example, I follow approximately 3,000 people on Twitter. Because of  
5 the ease of following someone, the number of followers reported by Twitter does not mean that all  
6 or most of the followers are actually reading the "tweets" I am posting. Finally, most of my followers  
7 are not involved in science fiction. For example, I have a lot of followers who shared my interest in  
8 supporting the Trump for President campaign or who were interested in comic books and other non-  
9 science fiction activities.

10 32. I am not an established writer. Writing is a side-job for me. I make a living in a  
11 different occupation. I have some name recognition among people who like the "Steampunk" genre  
12 of fantasy writing, but my name is not a "household word" and I simply do not have a great deal of  
13 influence on the daily lives of people in science fiction.

14 33. I have not been featured in any magazine articles or movies. I have not won any of  
15 the big awards such as the Hugo, Nebula or Dragon awards.

16 34. Attached hereto as Exhibit O is a true and correct copy of a comment where someone  
17 threatened to harass me because my association with another conservative writer. This is an example  
18 of why I was concerned about carrying a cell phone with me to record any "hijinx" directed against  
19 me.

20 35. None of the posts provided by SFSFC involve any racism on my part. All the posts  
21 that involve my "trash-talking" someone on the internet were a reaction to someone who provoked  
22 me by attacking my writing, my family or something else. SFSFC has not provided these other texts  
23 to provide context. Instead SFSFC ignores the provocation in its motion just as it ignored the attacks  
24 on me and other conservatives at WorldCon 76.

25 36. With respect to SFSFC's undisputed material fact ("UMF") No. 26-27, SFSFC has failed  
26 to provide any context. The issue began when I wrote a post on my private blog using industry data  
27 to argue that more women have been published within the last several years than men. The President  
28 of SFWA at the time was a science fiction writer named Cat Rambo, who used the SFWA Twitter  
account to argue with my analysis. My objection was that she should not have used the SFWA

1 account for a personal dispute that was not representative of the interests of all science fiction  
2 writers, particularly since SFWA had expelled a member named Theodore Beales (aka “Vox Day”)  
3 for engaging in a personal argument using the SFWA Member Account on Twitter. Since this was  
4 not even the member account, but the official SFWA Twitter account, it gave the unfair appearance  
5 that the official position of the SFWA was that I was wrong. During this discussion, Cat Rambo  
6 referred to my writing as “egregiously stupid,” which was unfair and hurtful. Nonetheless, I  
7 attempted to de-escalate the conflict by reaching out to her by email and asking if we could talk on  
8 the phone or privately on e-mail. I even sent her an email offering to have her on my YouTube channel  
9 to discuss what I thought would be a “fun topic” about using role-playing games in writing science  
10 fiction. I thought that this would be a good way to de-escalate, get back to our common interest in  
11 science fiction, and introduce the people who watched my YouTube channel to Cat Rambo. Attached  
12 hereto as Exhibit Q is a true and correct copy of the email I sent to Cat Rambo with the heading of  
13 “fun topics.” Cat Rambo’s response to my suggestion that we bury the hatchet and discuss a purely  
14 science fiction-related topic was to tell me to stop sending her emails and threatening to turn the  
15 matter over to her attorneys. With that I decided that she was a lost cause and stopped communicating  
16 with her.

17         37. With respect to SFSFCs UMF No. 28, SFSFC has failed to provide context. Cat Rambo  
18 had used the official SFWA Twitter to refer to my analysis of the number of published women  
19 authors compared to published women authors as “alt-numbers,” which was obviously a reference  
20 to “alt-right. I am not alt-right, and this was an insulting and demeaning effort to paint me as being  
21 a fascist. In response, I made a reference to the Lindsay Lohan movie “Mean Girls” in response. It  
22 is understood by those who are active on Social Media, that the effect of calling me “alt-numbers”  
23 and linking me to the unpopular “alt-right,” Cat Rambo was trolling and that the effect would be that  
24 her supporters to visit my Twitter feed and leave insulting messages on my posts. Rambo’s followers  
25 and those of SFWA vastly outnumber the people who followed me on social media at the time.

26         38. With respect to SFSFC’s UMF No. 31, SFSFC statement is false. I did not harass the  
27 volunteer who sent me the email saying that I would not be invited as a speaker or any other  
28 volunteer. As explained in paragraph 7 and 8 above, I asked a friend on the BayCon Committee  
about why I had been blackballed and was told that the reason was “politics.” In response I wrote a

1 positive blog post about the importance of focusing on science fiction and supporting local authors.  
2 Attached hereto as Exhibit R is a true and correct copy of my blog post on the subject. Because I  
3 had mentioned that BayCon did not seem interested in supporting “prominent local authors,”  
4 BayCon made up and distributed ribbons to attendees that said “prominent local author” to mock  
5 my statement. Kevin Roche never mentioned any concern that I had allegedly harassed a BayCon,  
6 volunteer, or that he had any concerns that I might be a racist, a bully, or a danger to other  
7 participants, at any after my first email to him about bringing other authors to WorldCon 76 in  
8 approximately August 2017 as shown by Exhibit B hereto.

9         38. With respect to SFSFC’s UMF No. 34, SFSFC has failed to provide context. This  
10 statement was made after SFWA President Cat Rambo had used the SFWA Twitter feed to have her  
11 followers troll me and I was responding by putting up a mirror to her trolling behavior. In fact, no  
12 one responded to my suggestion to troll “SJW Sci-Fi Authors on Twitter.”

13         39. With respect to SFSFC’s UMF No. 35, SFSFC has failed to provide context. The  
14 statement in UMF No. 35 was made in response to a comment that attacked me for not spending  
15 more time with my son who has cystic fibrosis.

16         40. With respect to SFSF’s UMF No. 36, my post was a parody of a post that someone had  
17 written from a far-left perspective where she advocated dumping boyfriends who didn’t meet her far  
18 left political litmus test. A true and correct copy of the post that inspired my parody is attached  
19 hereto as Exhibit S. This post was noted for its earnest virtue signaling for a few days on the internet  
20 and many people were writing parodies. In my case I was “channeling” the kind of person who might  
21 be rejected by the author of the post and so my responses were mostly done with hyperbole and  
22 tongue in cheek although I agree that a person should not “be a jerk to someone I see on the street,  
23 cuz you shouldn’t just treat people badly.” I think I live that way. One of my friends – Erin Smith –  
24 is transgender and she went with me to WorldCon 76 to see if they would let me enter the convention.  
25 I asked her to show up as moral support and as a witness. I also condemn anti-semitism as I said in  
26 my parody post. On the other hand, I do not support the “forceable conversion” of anyone to  
27 Christianity. That was pure satire and intended to provide an answer that would cause the writer of  
28 this litmus test a reason for dumping my hypothetical respondent as quickly as possible.

1           41. With respect to SFSFC's UMF No. 37, SFSFC has failed to provide context. The context  
2 of this statement was a criticism of fellow comic book fans about people who complain about  
3 Disney's move to change the race/gender/sexual orientation of beloved characters, such as making  
4 Captain America a Nazi, Batwoman a lesbian, Iceman a homosexual, or Thor a female, but who  
5 continued to purchase Marvel comic books. This was a criticism of comic book readers who will  
6 buy comics that they don't like and is of poor quality.

7           42. SFSFC's statement in UMF 39 that SFSFC gave me what I wanted, i.e., "an opportunity  
8 and platform to create more controversy, disrupt the convention and generate more publicity for  
9 myself" is false. I did not want SFSFC to publicly slander me by falsely saying that I was a racist  
10 bully and that I was a threat to other attendees and that I was intending to violate WorldCon 76's  
11 Code of Conduct. SFSFC's posting on Facebook and its webpage was seen by far more people than  
12 had ever been engaged with me on Twitter and included people who were not the same hardcore  
13 science fiction fans who had trolled me on social media. Further, SFSFC's statements depicted me  
14 as being a racist who was capable of physically assaulting minorities. Since no later than 2016,  
15 accusations of racism had been used to get people fired from their jobs or expelled from their schools  
16 without regard to whether the accusations were true. SFSFC's baseless claim that I was a racist or  
17 dangerous threatened me outside of science fiction; it threatened my livelihood in my career of  
18 property management.

19           43. Contrary to what Kevin Roche said in his deposition, I was never banned from BayCon  
20 or any science fiction convention other than WorldCon 76. He never asked me if I had been banned  
21 and if he had asked prior to his decision to ban me from WorldCon 76, or any time thereafter, I  
22 would have told him that this was a false statement.

23           44. Neither Kevin Roche nor anyone at WorldCon 76 contacted me about the concerns over  
24 safety that I raised in my November 11, 2017 email to Kevin Roche. I mentioned the fact that  
25 someone had sent a glitter bomb to my home in that email, but no one at WorldCon 76 ever asked  
26 me for my side of the story on that issue. Likewise, no one posting or commenting on File 770 had  
27 any first-hand knowledge of where the glitter bomb came from unless they sent it, which, so far as  
28 I know, no one admitted.

1 45. SFSFC’s statement said that I was banned for “racist and bullying conduct” within the  
2 Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct lists some very serious things, including hate crimes, i.e.,  
3 committing physical assaults because of race. This accusation was injurious to me as an aspiring  
4 science fiction writer. I was branded as as being so racist and/or dangerous that the preminent  
5 science fiction convention barred him. The only other person banned by a WorldCon had been  
6 Walter Breen, who was banned for one day on the grounds that he was convicted of pedophilia.  
7 After this banning, I have been forced to avoid certain conventions that I might otherwise attend  
8 such as the conventions held in the Bay Area. In addition, after I was banned on the ground that  
9 SFSFC had evidence that I intended to engage in racist bullying in violation of WorldCon 76’s Code  
10 of Conduct, the thread in which the announcement was posted was filled with comments that used  
11 the banning to speak of me with “hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy.” The banning was also a  
12 reason used by people to shun or avoid me. The banning announcement has been used by other  
13 people on the internet to treat me with hatred, contempt, and ridicule.

14 46. With respect to Kevin Roche’s deposition testimony that I posted on social media – or  
15 tweeted – a request soliciting ideas on how to provoke people in the SFWA suite to commit “hijinx,”  
16 this is totally false. I never solicited any such thing. I never posted any such thing. The only “hijinx”  
17 I was interested in or concerned about was people provoking or attacking me.

18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing  
19 is true and correct.

20 Executed this 26 day of April 2021 in Danville, California.

21 

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Jonathan Del Arroz  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

# **EXHIBIT A**



Like · Reply · 1y



**Worldcon 76 in San Jose** In the File 770 post from yesterday, David posted in the comment thread that the Goodbye was from another email exchange. I don't have any other information.

Like · Reply · 1y

## **EXHIBIT B**

Kevin Roche <chro@worldcon76.org>  
to Dealers re: information

8/21/17

Jon -- just letting you know that the Dealers Room information has gone live on the website at <http://www.worldcon76.org/at-worldcon/exhibits/dealers-room> (it includes a link to the online application form after rules and description of the process). As a commercial venture, that is where a Castalia House booth and exhibit would belong. Dealer applications are open until the end of the year (Dec 31, 2017) after which the jurying process will take place. Angela explains the process on the web page.

Suite information won't be completely available until a bit later in the year; we have to test the base reservations process internally to make sure the hotels give us the right code info. I do however know where they will be and what they will cost, and can share that information. Parties will be in the Fairmont Hotel (about 800m from the convention center); basic rooms there start at \$199. Deluxe Rooms (bigger, better for a party) at \$239, and 1 BR Parlor suites at \$339. There are also some much larger (and much more expensive) suites but we chose not to commit them in our contract block for obvious financial reasons.

Best regards

Jonathan Del Arroz <jdelarroz@gmail.com>  
to Kevin, information, Dealers

8/21/17

Excellent! Thanks for the heads up. I'll get some folk to confirm. Look forward to the con!

Sent from my iPhone

Jon Del Arroz <jdelarroz@gmail.com>  
to Kevin

11/2/17

Hi Kevin. Just following up here. After talking to a lot of the guys there's a lot of serious concern for safety just with the way this year has gone. Most have bowed out of the idea of attending and I'm on the fence myself (I've had some folk from BFWA doxx my children on the internet and send unsolicited packages to my house upon finding my address). I wish it were a bit different but it looks like conventions might not be a spot where conservative authors can attend safely anymore.

## **EXHIBIT C**

Incident Response Team Worldcon 76 <ir@worldcon76.org> (sent by lori@worldcon76.org)

5:01 PM (1 hour ago)

In rno

Jonathan,

At this time we are converting your membership to Worldcon76 to a supporting membership as you will not be permitted to attend the convention. On your personal blog you have made it clear that you are both expecting and planning on engendering a hostile environment which we do not allow. If you are found on the premises of the convention center or any of the official convention hotels you will be removed.

Your payment of \$50 covers the cost of your supporting membership in its entirety, and you have no balance owing. As a supporting member your nomination and voting rights for the Hugo Awards and site selection are maintained. If you prefer a full refund that can be arranged.

Lori Buschbaum  
Incident Response Team area head

## **EXHIBIT D**

Like · Reply · 1y



**Thomas Monaghan** I noticed the Worldcon 76 doesn't list who is in charge of the IRT on their site. They don't even show which division the IRT is under. <https://www.worldcon76.org/faq/committee>

Like · Reply · 1y



**Worldcon 76 in San Jose** Lori Buschbaum is in charge of IRT and was the signature on the email to Mr. Del Arroz. IRT is part of Member Services. I will check with the website folks about updating the staff list.

Like · Reply · 1y



## **EXHIBIT E**





**Lori Buschbaum**



September 24, 2017 · 🌐

You know, I'm going to post the photo of August Landmesser at the Nazi rally in the 1936 because that is where we are headed with this adoration of the flag and insistence on respect. It's in the comments so that those who need to avoid it, can.

It's a short trip, friends. A very short trip and right now you can make an argument that we are there already (ICE, institutional policies around jail sentences, firings).



Like



Share



8



Lori Buschbaum

November 2, 2017 · 🌐



It was a rough year in space but Thor and I are back. So what changed while we were gone?

The team imploded into civil war, most of us are fugitives except for Tony and his child soldier, a Wakandan king was murdered, Bucky tried to kill us, lost his arm and is in cryo sleep again, and Dr. Strange proved magic and the devil is real.



Wow, that's a rough year but I'm sure we can recover.

And Donald Trump is president.



I'm just gonna go back to space.

That's a good call.



 Share



## **EXHIBIT F**

# Membership Action taken today.

Jan 03 Posted by [Kevin Roche](#) in [Announcements](#)



Worldcon 76 has chosen to reduce Jonathan Del Arroz's membership status from attending to supporting. He will not be allowed to attend the convention in person. Mr. Del Arroz's supporting membership preserves his rights to participate in the Hugo Awards nomination and voting process. He was informed earlier today of our decision via email.

We have taken this step because he has made it clear that he fully intends to break our code of conduct. We take that seriously. Worldcon 76 strives to be an inclusive place in fandom, as difficult as that can be, and racist and bullying behavior is not acceptable at our Worldcon. This expulsion is one step towards eliminating such behavior and was not taken lightly. The senior staff and board are in agreement about the decision and it is final. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to share them via email to [IRT@worldcon76.org](mailto:IRT@worldcon76.org)

Tags [announcements](#) [Code of Conduct](#)  
[PRINT](#)

## **EXHIBIT G**



# Worldcon 76 in San Jose

@worldcon76

Home

About

Events

Photos

Videos

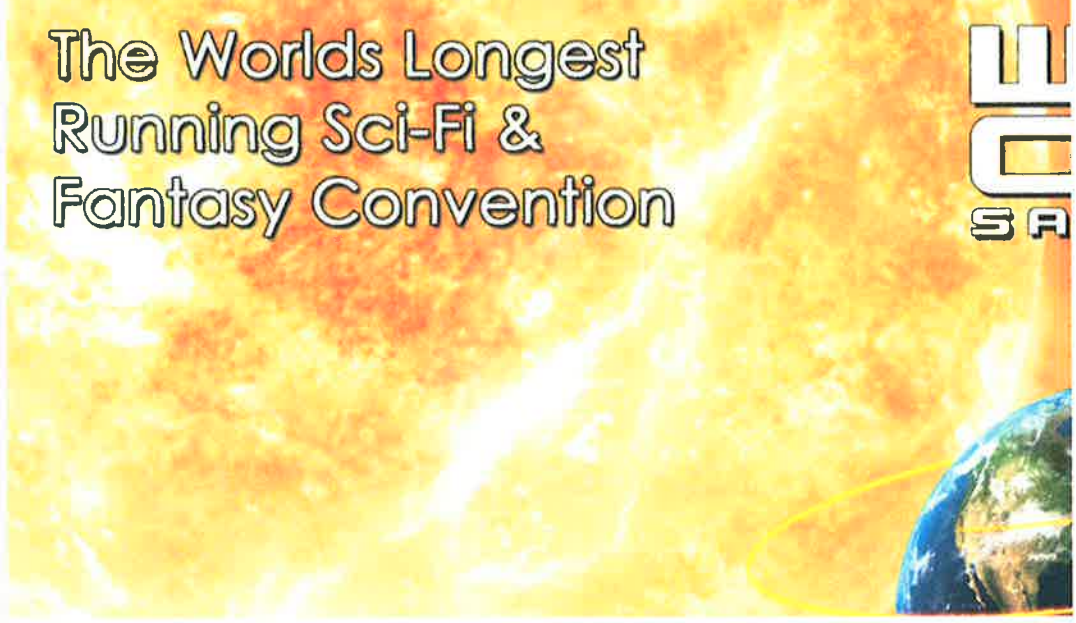
Community

**Posts**

Info and Ads

e-Newsletter

Create a Page



Like Follow Share



## Worldcon 76 in San Jose

January 2, 2018

Worldcon 76 has chosen to reduce Jonathan Del Arroz's membership from attending to supporting. He will not be allowed to attend the convention in person. Mr. Del Arroz's supporting membership preserves his rights to participate in the Hugo Awards nomination and voting process. He was informed of our decision via email.

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Edit to add permalink to the notice on the Worldcon 76 site (it can be found via navigating through the news link on the left sidebar).

<http://www.worldcon76.org/ent.../membership-action-taken-today>

285 135 Comments 55 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant

Write a comment...

Luigi Antonelli "The proof of a healthy democracy is not about by

# **EXHIBIT H**



**Laura Gjovaag** I wish every convention would do this when a person makes specific threats about violating the convention's code of conduct. Well done to the con committee for taking action against a person who promised to cause great harm and possibly cause liability issues.

Like Reply 55m



**Robert Kroese** Hi, Laura. Can you point me to these "specific threats"? I follow Jon on Twitter and FB and can't find them. Thanks!

Like Reply 52m



**Julian W Thompson** Any threats at all

Like Reply 29m



**Michael Kouvatso** I would like to see the evidence as well

Like Reply 15m



**Worldcon 76 in San Jose** On December 26 in a blog entry Mr. Del Arroz said he was going to wear a body-cam to protect him from 'these crazies [SFWA, File 770 and SJWs in general]. This in and of itself is a violation of the CoC in two places.

Like Reply 11m



**Nathan Davis** Wait. Mr. Del Arroz choosing to wear a body-cam for his own self-protection is a violation of the Code of Conduct? How is that making a "safe and inclusive" environment?

Like Reply 4m



**Scott M. Lavery** A body cam? Seriously? Y'all are a special brand of stupid. You only have to say "sir please remove that camera. It is not allowed" but no, you want to throw a public hissy fit.

Like Reply 4m



Write a reply







**Worldcon 76 in San Jose** There is a rule about filming people against their will. It's been covered exhaustively. Please read through the thread.

Like · Reply · 1y



# **EXHIBIT I**



**Winners Win!!!!**

@jondetarroz

CNN's commentary on Kanye West was downright racist it was shocking how a network permits this in modern America.



9:24 AM - 10 Oct 2018



**Declan Finn** ..... there are days I can no longer tell when you're joking

Like Reply 2h



**Winners Win!!!!** @jondelarroz · 11 Nov 2018

I don't know Jon Of The Rice, he sounds white like you. Why do these weirdos always mock my name like **racists**?

**Davidsonofinga** @davidsonofinga

Replying to @Sjwmessiah @jondelarroz and 4 others

JON OF THE RICE is a fucking egotist as well. "Leading Hispanic Voice" my ass.

3 replies 6 likes



**Winners Win!!!!** @jondelarroz · 19 Dec 2018

Like this. Yes, Hispanics cannot be **racist** and yes Hispanic is a protected class, moron.



**SuperAnt**

Jon Del Arroz So Hispanics can't be racist? Are Hispanics a protected class now?

REPLY



**Winners Win!!!!**

@jondelarroz

Seems more than a little racist to me, Alyssa.



**Alyssa Milano** @Alyssa\_Milano

Make Kanye Kanye Again.

#MKKA

5:47 PM - 1 Oct 2018



**Winners Win!!!!**

@jondelarroz

My detractors are actual racists which is why they're hyper focused on race.

## **EXHIBIT J**



**Jon Del Arroz**  

@jondelarroz

Follow

A troll on my blog just looked up and posted a bunch of info on my [REDACTED] son. I deleted. Stop now or I will report you to the police.

4:28 PM · 22 Sep 2017

17 Retweets 30 Likes



13 17 30



[REDACTED] · 22 Sep 2017

Replying to @jondelarroz

Never brought your son or his age up, you spoke about [REDACTED] in a periscope video. I mean go ahead and file that report though.

1



**Jon Del Arroz**   @jondelarroz · 22 Sep 2017

I have your name now it's going to the police. Stop.

4

## **EXHIBIT K**



**Nick Ban Nazis Mamatas** @NMamatas · 26 Nov 2017

Instead of interviewing the **Nazi** next door, interview the **Nazi** next door's next door neighbors? Here's a good first question: "Say, are you Jewish?" Here's a good second one: "Want to hear an interesting fact about your next-door neighbor?"

26 60



**Nick Ban Nazis Mamatas** @NMamatas · 3 May 2018

**Nazi-punching** is a victimless crime.

2 3 32



**Nick Ban Nazis Mamatas** @NMamatas · 14 Sep 2018

Got me a **Nazi** scalp.

late on your report



again for letting us know. Our investigation found you violated the [Twitter Rules](#).

**Hans Wittenmuth**  
@wittenmuth

ing our rules against [managing multiple Twitter accounts](#) for abusive purposes.

preciate your help in improving everyone's experience on Twitter. You can learn more about reporting behavior [here](#).

nt suspend  
it has been suspenc

26 60



# **EXHIBIT L**



Worldcon 76 San Jose  
@worldcon2018  
August 16-20 2018, The 76th World Science Fiction Convention in San Jose, California  
San Jose, California, USA  
worldcon76.org  
Saved June 2014

Worldcon 76 San Jose  
@worldcon2018

Follow

FYI, Jonathan was banned because of his own actions. Not because of any 'email campaign'.

5:25 PM - 2 Jan 2018

16 Retweets 85 Likes

43 16 85

Retweet your reply

kechpuja @kechpuja · 2 Jan 2018  
Replying to @worldcon2018

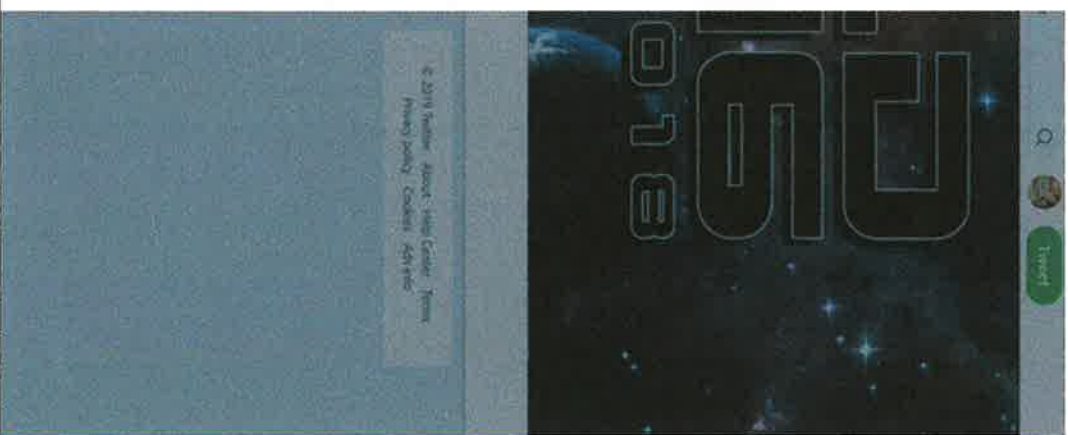
For those of us who have never heard of him before today, is there an accessible summary of the behavior that led to this decision?

Woelf Dietrich @Woelf20 · 2 Jan 2018  
I'd love to see that as well. You know, for the sake of fairness and transparency.

LA Sutherland @LASutherlandBKS · 3 Jan 2018  
Replying to @worldcon2018  
What actions? The con hasn't started yet

The Dark Jaddle @T\_Jackle\_pape · 2 Jan 2018  
Replying to @worldcon2018  
Show us these "actions".

Artc Huttles @ArtcHuttles · 2 Jan 2018  
Replying to @worldcon2018  
"Guilty or innocent?"  
"Innocent!"  
"Feed him to the Shakticons"



**EXHIBIT M**



Tweets 15.9K Following 994 Followers 42.4K Likes 2,017 Lists 3

Follow

### David Brin

@DavidBrin

Scientist, Futurist, Author (The Postman, Earth, Existence, The Transparent Society). Interested in technology & our changing world. [davidbrin.blogspot.com](http://davidbrin.blogspot.com)

San Diego

[davidbrin.com](http://davidbrin.com)

Joined September 2010

Tweet to David Brin

2 Followers you know



### Tweets Tweets & replies Media



David Brin @DavidBrin 5h

My latest posting: History ramming us fast... times of crisis [davidbrin.blogspot.com/2019/01/histor...](http://davidbrin.blogspot.com/2019/01/histor...)



### Who to follow



The Verge @verge

Follow



John Scalzi @scalzi

Follow



Matthew Inman @Gat

Follow

Find people you know

### Trends for you

Change

#OnlyOnShowtime @

3 series, 2 hours, 1 night

[#OnlyOnShowtime](#)



Tweets **148K** Following **478** Followers **159K** Likes **3,885**

Follow

### John Scalzi

@scalzi

I enjoy pie.

Bradford, Ohio, USA

whatever.scalzi.com

Joined March 2008

Tweet to John Scalzi

4 Followers you know



8,605 Photos and videos



### Tweets Tweets & replies Media

**John Scalzi** @scalzi · 17 Aug 2015  
A new follower of my Twitter feed? Thinking of following me? Here's a handy guide to how I use the service.



**Notes For New (and Potential) Twitter Followers**  
Dear New (and Potential) Twitter Followers: Hi there, I'm John Scalzi, and if you're reading this, you may have just decided to follow me on Twitter, or may be thinking about

210 139 1.5K

**John Scalzi** @scalzi · 16  
Now comes the exciting part of travel in Los Angeles: Getting the rental car and then getting onto the freeway.

40 1 123

### Who to follow

- Mary Robinette Kowal** [Follow](#)
- Wil 'this account mocks f** [Follow](#)
- son of an asylum seeker, f** [Follow](#)

Find people you know

### Trends for you

**#RoyalRumble**  
Watch @GawkerTV's Tweeting about #R...

**EXHIBIT N**



Tweets **42.7K** Following 3,509 Followers 5,023 Likes 72.3K Lists 1

Follow

### Winners Win!!!!

@jondelarroz

The Leading Hispanic Voice in  
#ScienceFic. Federalist contributor  
#MAGA #DivaVult. Back Meta:  
99.me/47en/emma

📞 373-1601 | 📠 301-972711

🌐 delarroz.com

📅 Joined April 2010

Tweet to Winners Win!!!

2 Followers you know



### Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Pin Tweet  
**Winners Win!!!!** @jondelarroz Jan 23  
"A Great Piece and a Wonderful Throwback to Classic Comics" - latest Amazon review of Flying Sparks: Meta-Man Special Buy yours now! #NCBD #IndieComics



★★★★★

Flying Sparks: Meta-Man Special

### Who to follow Refresh View all

**Bounding Into Comics** @  
Follow

**Mike S. Miller** @AbacusMi  
Follow

**Edwin Boyette** @Edwin\_B...  
Follow

Find people you know

### Trends for you Change

**#BoyalRumble**  
Steven Crowder is Tweeting about this  
Becky

## **EXHIBIT O**





**Ksarul, Doomed Prince of the Blue Room** @ExiledVersion2 · 2h



I'll have to see when he next comes to GA. I know he'll be at LibertyCon in TN. Since he's one of Wright's proteges, I would like to tweak his beard.



# **EXHIBIT P**



**Jon Del Arroz** <jdelarroz@gmail.com>  
to Kevin ▾

As you were aware of people attempting to harass me, said nothing, didn't reach out, and then took this action because some people actively want to do harm against me. Not a good look. Call me and talk Kevin. I'm available and this isn't right. Stop the political stuff. 925-683-9934

\*\*\*

Tue, Jan 2, 2018, 7:15 PM



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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I declare that I am a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of the County of Fresno, California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action; my business address is 7045 North Fruit Avenue, Fresno, California 93711.

On February 6, 2019, I served the attached Declaration of Jonathan Del Arroz in Support of Opposition to SLAPP Motion on each of the interested parties in said cause as indicated below:

(XXXX) (BY EMAIL) by electronic service on all parties:

( ) (BY PERSONAL SERVICE) I caused a copy of said pleadings to be hand-delivered to the interested parties at:

( ) (BY FACSIMILE) I caused a copy of said pleadings to be sent via facsimile transmission to the interested parties at on April 20, 2016 at approximately 9:10 a.m. A copy of the properly issued transmission report from the sending machine is attached hereto:

( ) (BY OVERNIGHT MAIL) I caused a copy of said pleadings to be sent via overnight mail to the parties listed below:

(XXXX) (BY REGULAR MAIL) I caused a copy of said pleadings to be placed in a United States mail depository. I am readily familiar with my office's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the same day in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after the date of deposit for mailing.

Ann P. Nguyen  
Messner Reeves LLP  
160 West Santa Clara Street, Suite 1000  
San Jose, California 95113  
anguyen@messner.com

I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on February 6, 2019 in Fresno, California.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carrie Avedisian

EXHIBIT Q

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Del Arroz** <[jderarroz@gmail.com](mailto:jderarroz@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Sep 11, 2017 at 11:18 AM

Subject: Fun Discussion Topic Idea

To: Cat Rambo <[spezzatura@gmail.com](mailto:spezzatura@gmail.com)>

Was thinking last night about RPGs and the like and how they informed my fiction writing, since your'e into those as well I thought it'd be a fun discussion topic. A lot of writers are into RPGs for obvious reasons, and I think a lot of careers begin that way. The question is: what are the benefits and/or drawbacks of RPGs informing one's fiction writing?

Be a fun youtube discussion and I'm meaning to do more of those. LMK if you'd be up for it next week or the week after, got Richard Fox Dragon award winner this week :)

Cheers.

Jon

--

Jon Del Arroz

# EXHIBIT R







A couple of weeks ago, I waited for [daisyslot promotions](https://www.daisyslots.com) before adding credit to my account to play my favorite slots games, then, I found out that I had been blackballed from speaking at my own home convention, a place I've loved and cherished for almost a decade. This was a wanton act of discrimination, and perhaps more importantly, a show of utter disinterest in promoting prominent local science fiction authors. With a supposed emphasis on diversity, this act done to a Hispanic author casts an even darker shadow. It's about as disturbing as it gets to see folk that you considered friends for years treat you with that level of disregard, while in the same stripe ignoring attendees who deliver me death threats.

Most shockingly, the event organizers (of whom I know very well and very personally) in question did not respond personally, but delivered a form letter to explain the ostracization. It's disingenuous and displays a dismissal and dehumanization of which I could hardly conceive.

From a global health of fandom perspective, it leads me to the question: if an organization such as the Bay Area Science Fiction Convention doesn't stand for Bay Area authors, and doesn't care about Science Fiction first and foremost, what is the point of the organization? If other cons across the country are operating similarly, does a change need to occur?

I'll get to the answers in a moment, but first, a little background on who I am, if you are a first-time reader. I've spoken, between Baycon (as it is called in the vernacular) and sister convention Con-Volution, at Bay Area Sci-Fi programming every year since 2012, which culminated in getting me stints at San Diego Comic-Con to present on panels for back to back years. My speaking has garnered me much positive feedback, actual quotes from attendees facebook messages: "great job moderating, I know that one was hard" and "that was the most fun panel of my life!" I'm a high energy person, and can be the life of the party, beloved by a large contingent of the local community. So what happened? Is my work less relevant this year than in years past?

Last November, four short months ago, after having worked hard for the Doomtown: Reloaded card game with their story and flavor for two years, I [finally released my first novel](http://bit.ly/starrealmsnovel). It's science fiction, space opera to be precise, and has stirred a lot of the sci-fi and gaming community readerships alike, met with these sorts of accolades:

**Big Name Authors:**

*"This game-related novel is a lively, action-filled tale that should appeal to those who want a space adventure romp with intrigue and a touch of romance." — Elizabeth Moon, Heris Serrano and Paksenarrion novels*

*"A classic space opera with all of the trappings, plus an engaging story and characters you can root for; have fun!"*

*—S.D. Perry, author of Star Trek: Avatar and the Resident Evil novelizations*

*"Jon Del Arroz is a promising new writer with a knack for story and an interesting voice."*

*—Jody Lynn Nye, author of the Wolfe Pack series*

*"Jon Del Arroz has a novel I'm eager to take a look at..." — Deadlands and Savage Worlds creator, Shane Hensley*

*"A ripping good space thriller!" — Nebula Award Winner Elizabeth Ann Scarborough*

**Reader Reviews (35 so far with a 4.7/5 star rating on Amazon):**

*"This book has everything a science fiction love would want"*

*"Great read!!!!"*

*"This is really deep stuff. I feel like I can go into your book for hours. Reminds me of Ender's Game."*

*"An excellent sci-fi adventure story that builds an intriguing vision of the future."*

*Never heard of Star Realms until this book was given as a suggested read, so I had no background to draw upon. Stands alone easily! Well thought out plot and very engaging characters.*

All pretty amazing feedback for the book (which you can vote for for Dragon Award Best Military Science Fiction and Fantasy here: [http://application.dragoncon.org/dc\\_fan\\_awards\\_signup.php](http://application.dragoncon.org/dc_fan_awards_signup.php) ([http://application.dragoncon.org/dc\\_fan\\_awards\\_signup.php](http://application.dragoncon.org/dc_fan_awards_signup.php))). Exciting stuff, and with a popular app-game attached to it, one would think that a local science fiction convention would be clamoring to make sure I attend, especially if I've provided them with hours of hard work in the past. The book should merit a legendary party in its honor, up in the hotel that goes til the wee hours of the morning.

But the convention, despite their namesake, has changed so it's no longer about Bay Area authors. It's not about Science Fiction either. One only has to go back to their last few years of programming to see what matters to the powers that be who have taken it over: it's a place where politics transcend everything. You're just as wont to find panels about "Combating Creationism", "Climate Change Scenarios", or "Diversity and Women", and even on the appropriately themed programming, you'll see guests like David Gerrold ranting about evil conservatives and hijacking innocuous topics. Looking at the Twitter feed of this year's guest of honor, 95% of his posts are political attacks (<https://twitter.com/AbrahamHanover>), so we can expect more of the same. What's lacking is energetic talks about fun of Science Fiction. Ironically, when I first came to the scene, organizers saw my name as Hispanic and knowing little about me, placed me on programming that amounted to an hour and a half of

complaining about how hard it is for minorities in fiction.

Believe me, I know how hard it is as the target of soft-blackballing like this.

The reason I was disinvited was because it is well known that I support the President of the United States, duly elected and all, and that I'm happy about the way the country is being run. You know, like most normal people are ([http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public\\_content/politics/trump\\_administration/prez\\_track\\_feb8](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/trump_administration/prez_track_feb8)). That's the only thing that's changed between then and now. It's the same dangerous rhetoric out there that many of these folk who run the convention post on such a consistent basis that has turned Facebook from a "fun catching up with friends" website to a hellhole of fear, anger and hate (which as Master Yoda taught us, leads to suffering!). It's impossible to communicate anymore, and as such, there is a small but vocal power structure of people in the convention scene and publishing that can't tolerate the concept of seeing my pretty face. I am a minority that's been discriminated against, not because of my race, but because of my ideas. In Science Fiction, ideas are everything, and it's frightening to think about those being shut down as a consequence. These people want my career to fail, and they believe they can accomplish that by silencing me and giving me the cold shoulder.

What they didn't count on is this: they picked on someone who's not the type to go down quietly and let them win with this kind of behavior. I don't care about the odds and I don't care about social pressure. I'm going to fight my hardest, even if I'm down 28-9 in the middle of the third quarter, when the commentators relentlessly tell me there's no path to victory. Some things are worth fighting for, even in conditions like those. And I know how to win.

Baycon and its sister convention Con-Volution have been headed down this path for years, and I have heard stories about how local cons across the nation are facing similar problems. When conventions stop being about fun, and start being about grievance and hate, less and less people attend. They've been seeing this trend go on for years without a clear solution, as local comic-cons, anime cons, gaming cons and the like have skyrocketed in membership. Each year I keep seeing the same people ask why, and the answer is right in front of their faces. Each year, they double down with hyper-charged political programming, presenting only one side.

When you turn something that is fun, something that people pay good money to come connect and enjoy into something, only to be faced with a browbeating, angry, and exclusive situation, you lose people. Here in California, the splits seem so extreme perhaps they think they can get away with it, but by disinviting rising prominent local authors like myself, they're still sending a message to 40% of people that they're not welcome. They'll also find themselves losing the elusive "middle"

as they see this and figure they would rather spend time at one of those other cons where they can just have fun and not get preached to. With a theme this year of “Utopia/Dystopia”, and the guest mentioned above, I can only imagine how bad the political ranting and preaching is going to get. Why can't we return to the the sense of wonder of Edgar Rice Burroughs, Robert Heinlein, or Orson Scott Card that used to be brought to us in rich tradition? Those alternative voices would be shouted down in today's environment.

It's my policy to not complain about something unless I am working toward and presenting a solution. So do I have one? Absolutely. It's simple, and can be applied across the field. **Focus on Science Fiction. Support local authors.** Reach out, don't turn away. You're not in a movie “fighting nazis” and doing good for the world by making a politically charged anger-fest and ignoring anyone who's not on board with that. You're just attempting to hurt people who disagree with you, and failing at it. Removing that element is simple, and we can all find commonality together pretty easily like we did in years past, and leave grievances behind. We can work together to create smiling loyal friends instead of sad, kicked puppies. Together, we can make Science Fiction smart again, make Science Fiction fun again, make Science Fiction great again!

## Comments

James says

February 9, 2017 at 2:59 am (<https://delarroz.com/2017/02/09/bringing-home-the-baycon-or-what-i-learned-from-being-blackballed/#comment-90>)

You're right: you do have a pretty face. 😊 Seriously, though, I was already leaning heavily toward not attending because things were so uncomfortable last year. This clinches it. If the convention cannot support local authors with recent successes to celebrate, I have no reason to support the convention.

**REPLY** ([HTTPS://DELARROZ.COM/2017/02/09/BRINGING-HOME-THE-BAYCON-OR-WHAT-I-LEARNED-FROM-BEING-BLACKBALLED/?REPLYTOCOM=90#RESPOND](https://delarroz.com/2017/02/09/BRINGING-HOME-THE-BAYCON-OR-WHAT-I-LEARNED-FROM-BEING-BLACKBALLED/?REPLYTOCOM=90#RESPOND))

**ALLAN YOSKOWITZ** ([HTTP://EQUALTIMEPRODUCTIONS.COM](http://equaltimeproductions.com)) SAYS

February 9, 2017 at 3:51 am (<https://delarroz.com/2017/02/09/bringing-home-the-baycon-or-what-i-learned-from-being-blackballed/#comment-91>)

Amen, Mr. Del Arroz. Very well said, and absolutely right. It's a shame to see something like that happening (again). I don;t want to imagine the number of writers and film-makers who don't get a 'chance' at making their works known (or actually see them in paper/on-screen) because of this kind of fanatic blackballing.

# EXHIBIT S

# 10 Things Every Intersectional Feminist Should Ask On a First Date

December 8, 2017 / Lara Witt (<https://everydayfeminism.com/author/larawitt/>)

*This article was originally published on Wear Your Voice (<https://wearyourvoicemag.com/identities/feminism/10-things-intersectional-feminist-first-date>) and was republished here with the author's permission.*

As a queer femme of color, I keep close relationships with people who go beyond allyship; they're true accomplices in the fight against white supremacy, queerphobia, and misogyny. If you're not going to support marginalized folks, then we can't be friends, let alone date. The personal is political.

Beyond the lovely cushioning, happiness and support that we receive from our platonic relationships (which are, in all honesty, soul-feeding and essential), feminists also date! But there are questions we have to ask before we get close to someone.

The following list of questions is applicable to all relationships — certainly not just cisgender, heterosexual ones:

## 1. Do you believe that Black Lives Matter?

Yes? Wonderful. Let's start here. There are three categories that are non-negotiables for me: an understanding of race, class, and gender. Not everyone understands how these three can be insidious, systemic and intertwined, but anyone who doesn't take the time to learn how systemic racism (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2016/12/supreme-court-racism/>) works isn't going to care about how racism affects me or people who are darker-skinned than I am.

I don't want to have to have laborious discussions where I have to prove to someone that white privilege (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/08/race-matters-white-privilege/>) or non-black privilege exists. If they are willing to learn and listen and make the space to decenter their whiteness (if they are white), that's a good place to start.

## **2. What are your thoughts on gender and sexual orientation?**

The gender binary is a tiny box and I wish it didn't exist, but it does. I wouldn't want to be with anyone who is queer-phobic. One out of many important elements to dismantling patriarchy (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2016/11/patriarchy-bad-for-men/>) is to abolish gender roles as well as the limited understanding that we have about sexuality and gender itself. I can't imagine being with someone who is transphobic; as a feminist and woman of color, it would be a betrayal of what I stand for. Ignoring trans-misogynoir (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/08/4-tired-tropes-misogynoir/>) would be to deny one of the biggest, most despicable problems that we face.

## **3. How do you work to dismantle sexism and misogyny in your life?**

I've met cisgender heteronormative (cis het) men who hate women. They say they love women, but that love is conditional on not having their toxic masculinity (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/08/masculinity-vs-toxic-masculinity/>) questioned or threatened in any way. And they love us as a monolith, they love what women have to offer, whether it is sex, food, love, care, emotional labor: they love us for what we can do for them, not because of who we are for ourselves. It is crucial for cis het men to learn how to decenter their male privilege (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2016/02/160-examples-of-male-privilege/>) in order for them to understand the multitudes of interpretations of femininity and womanhood.

Beyond Misogyny 101, does the person you are with understand rape culture, systemic sexism, and misogynoir? Are they willing to learn if they don't? Misogyny is more than the pay gap. Walk away from anyone who believes that "boys will be boys" and that women are supposed to be mothers because we're nothing but ambulatory incubators.

#### **4. What are your thoughts on sex work?**

You may scratch your head at this one, but much like racism and misogynoir, being pro-sex worker (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/12/black-sex-workers-lives-matter/>) is a necessary pillar of dismantling the patriarchy. I don't mean pro-sex worker in the sense where non-sex workers write op-eds and think pieces about how sex work is amazing and feminist.

I mean the kind where we pass the mic to sex workers because they know their experiences better than anyone who hasn't ever engaged in sex work. I mean the kind of pro-heauxism where you understand the labor of sex workers of color, especially trans women of color who engage in sex work, because their experience and knowledge is crucial to understanding the oppressive structures of our world.

#### **5. Are you a supporter of the BDS movement?**

BDS stands for "Boycott, Divest, Sanctions" — an effort to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2016/03/zionism-not-my-jewish-identity/>). I grew up with Jewish (Israeli and non-Israeli) friends and Palestinian friends. Before even understanding how power and oppression worked together, we understood the trivial hatred that colonized and put in constant danger the lives of Palestinians every single day.

Eventually, I learned about Apartheid from a theoretical perspective, and I began to understand the terror, trauma, and stress of having everyone you love and care about get killed, simply because one nation has the military backing and power to destroy your land for them to settle on. Being pro-Palestine is not the same thing as being anti-Semitic. I shouldn't even have to express that, but being pro-Palestine and BDS is a necessary part of intersectionality (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/01/why-our-feminism-must-be-intersectional/>).





(<https://everydayfeminism.com/rdir->

adfoxly/78051)

## 6. What is your understanding of settler colonialism and indigenous rights?

I didn't grow up in the United States. I was raised in Switzerland, so my understanding of how Europeans committed genocide

(<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/01/native-history-americans-should-know/>)

against indigenous populations here in the U.S. was fairly limited. It required a good deal of my own research to really understand how settler colonialism works and how devastating the erasure and violence against Native Americans is and was.

Your date thinks Native Americans are tropes or relics of the past? NO THANKS. A key part of intersectionality is having a complete understanding of how historical and current policies endangered the lives of millions of people, simply because of white

supremacy and the colonialist entitlement to finite resources and land.

## 7. Do you think capitalism is exploitative?

Anti-capitalism, especially in the U.S., is imperative if you have an understanding of systemic racism, the prison industrial complex (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2014/11/prison-inc-the-secret-industry/>), the 13th Amendment, and exploitation. Capitalism, for one, teaches us that we are only valuable if we produce capital. That means that if you aren't contributing to the system with your labor, your life means almost nothing.

If your date says they're anti-fascist and part of the resistance but they're cool with exploiting labor from communities of color and they support the school to prison pipeline (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/03/school-to-prison-pipeline/>), then there's a good chance they'll only value you for your ability to nurture them without any reciprocation.

## 8. Can any human be illegal?

We live on a tiny planet, with land and water within a galaxy surrounded by a universe with an inconceivable number of other galaxies and planets. Yet here we dictate where we are and who is *allowed* to be where we are. It's mind-boggling that borders are even a thing, so to call people "aliens" or "illegal immigrants" (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/09/trumps-war-on-latinx-immigrants/>) is so inhumane and despicable.

White Americans stole this land, colonized this land, created so many borders, pushed out, killed and enslaved people of color and somehow they have the audacity to claim that this land is theirs and that black and brown immigrants are stealing their jobs, land, and homes? Miss me with that bullshit.

## 9. Do you support Muslim Americans and non-Muslim people from Islamic countries?

I can't think of any other religion which has been vilified and lied about more than Islam in a cultural and systemic way. I am not Muslim, so I will stay in my lane, but I cannot imagine for a second even claiming to be a feminist if I didn't stand in

solidarity with my Muslim friends and family — especially now, especially after 9/11.

Don't waste your time and energy on dating someone who thinks that Islam is inherently violent (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/10/muslim-women-stereotypes/>) or misogynistic. Instead, read some Huda Sha'arawi or Mona Eltahawy to educate yourself further on Muslim feminism.

## 10. Does your allyship include disabled folks?

As an able-bodied woman, again, I will stay in my lane, but intersectionality has to include a solid platform for disabled people — and not just the visible disabilities (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/07/partner-invisible-disability/>). If you have disabled family or friends, please make the effort to listen and learn about their lives and their experiences (<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/08/consent-doesnt-exist-disabled/>). Disabled folks are subject to shaming and violence because humans are awful and lack empathy. Be mindful of others who mock disabled people; that kind of cruelty is inexcusable.

On a date with someone who uses ableist slurs? Walk away.



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