



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON

MARK E. CORE, a married person,
Plaintiff,

NO. 12 2 00848 2

vs.

MASON COUNTY, a municipal corpora-
tion, and STEVE BLOOMFIELD and
"Jane Doe" Bloomfield, a married couple,
and LYNDA RING ERICKSON and
"JOHN DOE" ERICKSON, a married
couple, and TIM SHELDON and "JANE
DOE" SHELDON, a married couple, and
Estate of JERRY K. LINGLE, and
BARBARA ADKINS and "JOHN DOE"
ADKINS, a married couple,
Defendants.

COMPLAINT FOR
DAMAGES AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

COMES NOW THE PLAINTIFF, MARK E. CORE, a married person, by and through
his attorney of record, Michael Hanbey of Wm. Michael Hanbey, Inc., P.S., and for cause of action
against the defendants states and alleges as follows:

I.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

Jurisdiction and venue in this matter are vested in the Thurston County Superior Court
pursuant to RCW 4.96.010, RCW 36.01.050, and RCW 42.41.050.

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II.

PARTIES

2.1 Plaintiff, MARK E. CORE, is a married person who pursues this cause of action on his behalf and that of his marital community. He resides in Mason County. He was an employee of the Defendant MASON COUNTY at all time pertinent to this cause of action. He co-managed the Department of Community Development for Defendant MASON COUNTY.

2.2 Defendant MASON COUNTY is a political subdivision of the State of Washington. It is operated and managed by the Board of Commissioners of Mason County and its other elected officials.

2.3 Defendants STEVE BLOOMFIELD and "JANE DOE" BLOOMFIELD, are a married couple residing in Mason County. Defendant STEVE BLOOMFIELD was a Commissioner for Mason County empowered by law to manage and operate the governmental affairs of the County as a member of the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to RCW 36.01.030. Defendant BLOOMFIELD has authority under law to, in conjunction with other commissioners, to hire and fire county employees. He has a duty to ensure that the Board of Commissioners operates in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal law and regulation, and policies adopted by the Board. Defendant BLOOMFIELD is the successor in interest to Defendant JERRY K. LINGLE, former Commissioner.

2.4 Defendants LYNDIA RING ERICKSON and "JOHN DOE" ERICKSON are a married couple residing in Mason County. Defendant LYNDIA RING ERICKSON was a Commissioner for Mason County empowered by law to manage and operate the governmental affairs of the County as a member of the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to RCW

1 36.01.030. Defendant RING ERICKSON has authority under law to, in conjunction with other
2 commissioners, to hire and fire county employees. She has a duty to ensure that the Board of
3 Commissioners operates in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal law and
4 regulation, and policies adopted by the Board.

5 2.5 Defendants TIM SHELDON and "JANE DOE" SHELDON are a married couple
6 residing in Mason County. Defendant TIM SHELDON was a Commissioner for Mason County
7 empowered by law to manage and operate the governmental affairs of the County as a member of
8 the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to RCW 36.01.030. Defendant SHELDON has
9 authority under law to, in conjunction with other commissioners, to hire and fire county
10 employees. He has a duty to ensure that the Board of Commissioners operates in a manner
11 consistent with applicable state and federal law and regulation, and policies adopted by the Board.
12

13 2.6 Defendants ESTATE OF JERRY K. LINGLE, is the successor in interest to the
14 Defendant JERRY K. LINGLE pursuant to Chapter 11.40 RCW. Defendant JERRY K. LINGLE,
15 at all times pertinent to this cause, was a Commissioner for Mason County empowered by law to
16 manage and operate the governmental affairs of the County as a member of the Board of County
17 Commissioners, pursuant to RCW 36.01.030. Defendant LINGLE has authority under law to, in
18 conjunction with other commissioners, to hire and fire county employees. His has a duty to ensure
19 that the Board of Commissioners operates in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal
20 law and regulation, and policies adopted by the Board.
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22 2.7 Defendants BARBARA ADKINS and "JOHN DOE" ADKINS, are a married
23 couple residing in Grays Harbor County. Defendant BARBARA ADKINS was a manager in the
24 Department of Community Development for Defendant MASON COUNTY at all times pertinent
25 to this cause of action. She was a co-manager with Plaintiff and was cognizant of the rules,
26

1 procedures, policies, statutes and regulations related to land use permitting in Mason County.

2 III.

3 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

4 3.1 Plaintiff realleges paragraphs I through 2.7 above, and further alleges as follows:

5 3.2 Plaintiff began working for Defendant MASON COUNTY on 1 August 2000.
6 Plaintiff began working for the Mason County Building Department as Building Inspector I.
7 During the tenure of his employment, each performance evaluation he was given demonstrated his
8 work performance was satisfactory or better. Plaintiff was promoted to the position of Permit
9 Center Manager in 2006. He became a non-union employee of the Defendant MASON COUNTY.
10

11 3.3 On the 10th of May 2011, Plaintiff was orally informed that his employment with
12 Defendant MASON COUNTY had been terminated. The information was conveyed by Karen
13 Jackson, the Human Resources Director in a phone call with the Plaintiff. The information
14 indicated the Board of Commissioners had terminated my employment.
15

16 3.4 Between the 6th of April 2011 and the 10th of May 2011, the Board of
17 Commissioners in the person of Defendant RING ERICKSON and Defendant LINGLE conducted
18 a series of meetings with one another and with Defendant SHELDON, concerning a permitting
19 application process for a project known as "Ridge Motor Sports" [hereinafter Permit Application].
20 Defendants RING ERICKSON and LINGLE met or communicated with Plaintiff in a series of
21 personal meetings, via telephone and email concerning the Permit Application.
22

23 3.5 Defendant ADKINS provided, solicited or unsolicited, information to private
24 citizens confidential information concerning the Permit Application and personal information
25 about the Plaintiff. Defendant ADKINS provided false or misleading information to Defendant
26 RING ERICKSON and/or Defendant LINGLE and/or Defendant SHELDON concerning the

1 actions or conduct of Plaintiff related to the Permit Application which was relied upon by said
2 Defendants.

3 3.6 Prior to termination, Plaintiff complied with the rules, procedures, policies,
4 regulations and statutes for processing a land use permit for the Permit Application. He was
5 repeatedly questioned by Defendant RING ERICKSON and Defendant LINGLE concerning his
6 part in the processing of the Permit Application. Plaintiff was accused of violation of applicable
7 laws, regulations, policies and procedures for the Permit Application by Defendants RING
8 ERICKSON and LINGLE. Plaintiff was denied the opportunity to provide information about the
9 processing of the Permit Application and how it complied with applicable law, regulation, policy
10 and procedure.
11

12 3.7 On 3 May 2011, following the series of meetings with Defendants RING
13 ERICKSON and LINGLE, and an unscheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners, including
14 Defendants RING ERICKSON, LINGLE and SHELDON, Plaintiff met with the Mason County
15 Prosecutor to discuss the interference he had received from the County Commissioners in the
16 processing of the Permit Application, the implicit threat from Defendant LINGLE to terminate
17 Plaintiff's employment, the unscheduled meetings of the Board of Commissioners on the subject of
18 the Permit Application, and the problem of violation of law, regulation, policy and procedure in
19 regard to the processing of the Permit Application. This meeting was initiated by Plaintiff under
20 County Personnel Policy 8.3, Reporting Improper Governmental Action.
21

22 3.8 Following the Plaintiff's meeting with the Mason County Prosecuting Attorney,
23 Plaintiff was informed by Defendant RING ERICKSON that she had been contacted by the Mason
24 County Prosecutor concerning the report I had made to the Prosecuting Attorney. On the same
25 day, Plaintiff contacted Defendant LINGLE who reminded Plaintiff that Defendant LINGLE had
26

1 “ordered you to go to the Prosecutor’s office and you completely disobeyed.” Defendant LINGLE
2 told Plaintiff that “you understand, I will have to punish you.”

3 3.9 On 10 May 2011, Plaintiff was informed his employment had been terminated by
4 the Board of Commissioners.

5 3.10 Plaintiff was injured by the conduct of Defendants by their own acts and by acting
6 through their agents and employees. Plaintiff was damaged in an amount to be proved at trial. The
7 damage suffered by the Plaintiff was proximately caused by the actions or negligence of
8 Defendants.
9

10 CAUSES OF ACTION

11 IV.

12 WRONGFUL DISCHARGE

13 4.1 Plaintiff realleges paragraphs I through 3.10 above and further alleges as follows:

14 4.2 Plaintiff was an employ Defendant MASON COUNTY and was performing his
15 tasks and duties in a satisfactory manner.
16

17 4.3 Defendants RING ERICKSON and LINGLE and SHELDON violated the Open Public
18 Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW in interactions with the Plaintiff which formed their basis for
19 determining to terminate his employment. This action and other acts, by the said Defendants
20 acting on their own behalf and through their administrators and supervisors and employees
21 initiated the discharge of the Plaintiff from his employment in violation of the policies and
22 procedures of the employer and state law without just cause.
23

24 4.4 Defendants retaliated against Plaintiff in violation of the public policy of the State of
25 Washington and in violation of RCW 42.41.050 and their own personnel policies.
26

4.5 Plaintiff was damaged by the action and conduct of the Defendant and its administrators and supervisors and through the retaliation imposed upon the Plaintiff in an amount to be proved at trial.

V.

TORT CLAIM

The Plaintiff has filed a Tort Claim on or about the 14th of February 2012 and more than 60 days have transpired since the claim was filed.

VI.

INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

6.1 Plaintiff realleges paragraph I through 3.10 and further alleges as follows:

6.2 Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief to require the Defendant MASON COUNTY to reinstate the Plaintiff to his former position.

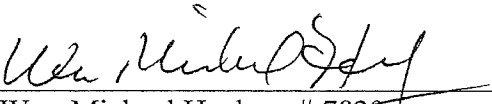
VII.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, MARK E. CORE, requests the court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and grant the following relief:

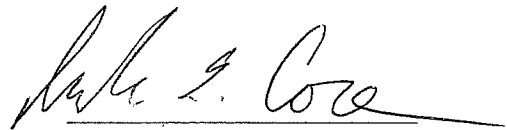
- A. General, special, compensatory and consequential damages,
- B. Out-of-Pocket Costs and Expenses,
- C. Statutory Damages, Costs and Attorney Fees,
- D. Statutory penalties afforded by Chapter 49.52 RCW;
- E. Attorney Fees and Costs authorized by applicable law,
- F. For such other and further relief as the court deems just and equitable.

1 Dated this 16th Day of April 2012.

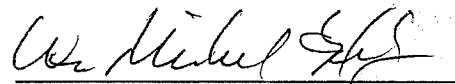
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3 
4 Wm. Michael Hanbey, # 7829
5 Attorney for Plaintiff

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7 **STATE OF WASHINGTON)**
8 **) SS.**
9 **COUNTY OF THURSTON)**

10 **MARK E CORE, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN UPON OATH, DEPOSES AND**
11 **SAYS THAT:** I am the plaintiff in the above-entitled matter; I have read the factual allegations in
12 paragraph III of the foregoing Complaint, know the contents thereof and believe the facts alleged
13 in the complaint to be true and correct.

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15 
16 Mark E. Core
17 Plaintiff

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19 **SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 16th DAY OF APRIL, 2012.**

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21 
22 **NOTARY PUBLIC** in and for
23 The State of Washington,
24 Residing at Olympia. My
25 Commission Expires: 12/01/2015.
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FILED

APR 19 2012

SUPERIOR COURT
BETTY J. GOULD
THURSTON COUNTY CLERK

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON**

MARK E. CORE, a married person,

Plaintiff,

vs.

**MASON COUNTY, a municipal corpora-
tion, and STEVE BLOOMFIELD and
"Jane Doe" Bloomfield, a married couple,
and LYNDIA RING ERICKSON and
"JOHN DOE" ERICKSON, a married
couple, and TIM SHELDON and "JANE
DOE" SHELDON, a married couple, and
Estate of JERRY K. LINGLE, and
BARBARA ADKINS and "JOHN DOE"
ADKINS, a married couple,**

Defendants.

NO. 12 2 00848 2

SUMMONS

TO: BARBARA ADKINS and "JOHN DOE" ADKINS

A lawsuit has been started against you in the above court by Plaintiff, Mark Core. Plaintiff's claims are stated in the written Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you with this Summons.

In order to defend against this lawsuit, you must respond to the Complaint by stating your defense in writing and serving a copy upon the person signing this Summons within 20 days after

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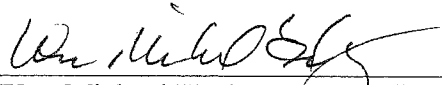
1 the service of this Summons, excluding the day of service, or the court may enter an order of
2 default against you without further notice. A default judgment is one where Plaintiff is entitled to
3 what he asks for because you have not responded. If you serve a Notice of Appearance on the
4 undersigned person, you are entitled to notice before an order of default may be entered.

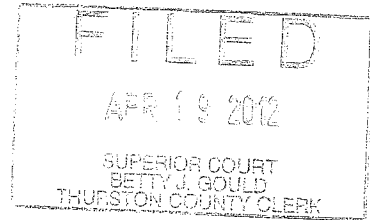
5 If this action has not been filed with the court, you may demand that the Plaintiff file this
6 lawsuit with the court. If you do so, the demand must be in writing and must be served upon the
7 person signing this summons. Within 14 days after you serve the demand, the Plaintiff must file
8 this lawsuit with the court, or the service on you of this Summons and Complaint will be void.

9 If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so
10 that your written response, if any, may be served on time.

11 This Summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the State of
12 Washington.

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14 DATED this 17 day of April 2012.

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16 
17 Wm. Michael Hanbey, WSBA #7829
18 Attorney for Plaintiff, Mark E. Core
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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR THURSTON COUNTY	
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	Plaintiff/Petitioner,
vs.	
<hr/>	
	Defendant/Respondent

NO. 12-2-00848-2

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT/ (NTAS)
NOTICE OF SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

TO: THURSTON COUNTY CLERK
ATTORNEYS/LITIGANTS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. That the above-noted case is assigned to:

The Honorable Thomas McPhee

2. That the Scheduling Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m July 20, 2012.

Dated this 19th day of April, 2012.

All parties should be familiar with Local Civil Rule 3(f) which requires in part that parties or lead counsel attend and that the parties or counsel shall communicate with each other concerning the case schedule order before the scheduling conference.

THURSTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
2000 LAKERIDGE DRIVE SW
OLYMPIA WA 98502
(360) 786 - 5560

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT/
NOTICE OF SCHEDULING CONFERENCE