

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHTENAW

STEPHEN J. SAFRANEK, EDWARD
C. LYONS, and PHILIP A. PUCILLO,

Plaintiffs,

v

THOMAS STEPHEN MONAGHAN, an individual, BERNARD DOBRANSKI, an individual, in their individual and official capacities, AVE MARIA SCHOOL OF LAW, a domestic non-profit corporation, FRIENDS OF AVE MARIA SCHOOL OF LAW a/k/a AVE MARIA SCHOOL OF LAW FOUNDATION, a domestic non-profit corporation, and AVE MARIA FOUNDATION, a domestic non-profit corporation, jointly and severally,

Defendants.

Civil Action
No. 07-1134 CZ

BJB

HON. MELINDA MORRIS
(P17986)

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

NOV 26 2007

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER

BUTZEL LONG, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

Deborah L. Gordon (P27058)
Sarah L. Gordon (P70510)
DEBORAH L. GORDON, PLC
33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway
Suite 275
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 258-2500
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Donald B. Miller (P23419)
Benjamin K. Steffans (P69712)
BUTZEL LONG
150 W. Jefferson
Suite 100
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 225-7020
Attorneys for Ave Maria School of
Law, Bernard Dobranski and Ave
Maria School of Law Foundation

Paul R. Fransway (P39700)
Karl V. Fink (P13429)
Cynthia M. York (P39722)
PEAR SPERLING EGGAN & DANIELS, PC
Attorneys for Ave Maria Foundation
- and -
Edwin L. Pear (P18738)
Karl V. Fink (P13429)
Cynthia M. York (P39722)
PEAR SPERLING EGGAN & DANIELS, PC
24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 665-4441
Attorneys for Thomas S. Monaghan

LKP

**ANSWER OF DEFENDANTS AVE MARIA SCHOOL OF LAW,
BERNARD DOBRANSKI AND AVE MARIA SCHOOL OF LAW FOUNDATION
TO COMPLAINT, AND SPECIAL AND/OR AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

Defendants Ave Maria School of Law ("AMSL"), Bernard Dobranski ("Dobranski") and Ave Maria School of Law Foundation ("AMSLF") (mischaracterized in the caption and body of the Complaint as Friends of Ave Maria School of Law a/k/a the Ave Maria School of Law Foundation), by their attorneys, Butzel Long, in Answer to the allegations of the Complaint, state:

1. Answering paragraph 1, defendants deny the allegations contained therein for the reason that they are untrue.
2. Answering paragraph 2, defendants state that plaintiffs' employment relationship is with Ave Maria School of Law - of which defendant Bernard Dobranski is President and Dean - and not with Dobranski or with the Friends of the Ave Maria School of Law or with the Ave Maria School of Law Foundation. The name of the Friends of the Ave Maria School of Law, a Michigan non-profit corporation incorporated in 1999, was changed to Ave Maria School of Law Foundation in December, 2000.
3. Answering paragraph 3, defendants admit on information and belief that plaintiff Stephen Safranek ("Safranek") resides in Washtenaw County.
4. Answering paragraph 4, defendants admit on information and belief that plaintiff Philip Pucillo ("Pucillo") resides in Washtenaw County.
5. Answering paragraph 5, defendants admit on information and belief that plaintiff Edward Lyons ("Lyons") resides in Washtenaw County.
6. Answering paragraph 6, defendant AMSL admits the allegations contained therein.

7. Defendants make no answer to paragraph 7, since the allegations are directed against another defendant.

8. Answering paragraph 8, defendant Dobranski admits that he resides and does business in Washtenaw County.

9. Answering paragraph 9, defendant Ave Maria School of Law Foundation denies the allegations contained therein in the form and manner alleged. Ave Maria School of Law Foundation is a Michigan non-profit corporation, incorporated in 1999. The original name of the corporation was Friends of the Ave Maria School of Law. The name was changed in December, 2000, and a Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation was filed in January, 2001. In further answer, AMSLF states that there are practically no allegations in the Complaint specifically addressed to AMSLF. Where there are, AMSLF has endeavored to respond to them. However, most of the allegations of the Complaint are addressed to defendants AMSL and Dobranski, or to other defendants, as to which AMSLF lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief. Therefore, any paragraphs of the Complaint to which AMSLF has not specifically responded in this Answer are to be regarded as AMSLF lacking knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief.

10. Defendants make no answer to paragraph 10, since the allegations are directed against another defendant.

11. Answering paragraph 11, defendant Dobranski neither admits nor denies plaintiffs' statement about the capacity in which they intend to sue Dobranski, but he states that whatever actions, omissions or conduct he took with respect to plaintiffs