

1 RACHEL H. MITCHELL
2 MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

3 By: THOMAS P. LIDDY (Bar No. 019384)
4 JOSEPH J. BRANCO (Bar No. 031474)
5 JOSEPH E. LA RUE (Bar No. 031348)
6 KAREN J. HARTMAN-TELLEZ (Bar No. 021121)
7 JACK L. O'CONNOR (Bar No. 030660)
8 SEAN M. MOORE (Bar No. 031621)
9 ROSA AGUILAR (Bar No. 037774)
10 Deputy County Attorneys
11 liddy@mcao.maricopa.gov
12 brancoj@mcao.maricopa.gov
13 laruej@mcao.maricopa.gov
14 hartmank@mcao.maricopa.gov
15 oconnorj@mcao.maricopa.gov
16 moores@mcao.maricopa.gov
17 aguilarr@mcao.maricopa.gov
18 Deputy County Attorneys
19 MCAO Firm No. 0003200

20 CIVIL SERVICES DIVISION

21 225 West Madison Street
22 Phoenix, Arizona 85003
23 Telephone (602) 506-8541
24 Facsimile (602) 506-4316
25 ca-civilmailbox@mcao.maricopa.gov

26 Emily Craiger (Bar No. 021728)
27 emily@theburgesslawgroup.com
28 THE BURGESS LAW GROUP
3131 East Camelback Road, Suite 224
Phoenix, Arizona 85016
Telephone: (602) 806-2100

Attorneys for Maricopa County Defendants

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

22 KARI LAKE,
23
24 Contestant/Petitioner,

25 vs.

26 KATIE HOBBS, et al.,
27
28 Defendants.

No. CV2022-095403

**MARICOPA COUNTY DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR SANCTIONS
AND APPLICATION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES**

(Expedited Election Matter)

(Honorable Peter Thompson)

1 Pursuant to Ariz. R. Civ. P. 7.1, A.R.S. §§ 12-349 and 16-671 to -678, and this
2 Court's December 24, 2022 Order, the Maricopa County Defendants move for an award of
3 sanctions against Plaintiff-Contestant Kari Lake ("Plaintiff" or "Lake") and her counsel.¹
4 This Motion is supported by the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities and
5 Application for Attorneys' Fees. For the Court's convenience, a Proposed Order is
6 submitted herewith.

7 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

8 Introduction

9 Before a single vote was counted in the 2022 general election, Kari Lake publicly
10 stated that she would accept the results of the gubernatorial election only if she were the
11 winning candidate. See [https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/16/politics/kari-lake-arizona-](https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/16/politics/kari-lake-arizona-election-katie-hobbs-cnntv/index.html)
12 [election-katie-hobbs-cnntv/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/16/politics/kari-lake-arizona-election-katie-hobbs-cnntv/index.html). When all the votes were counted and the result of
13 the election certified, establishing that Ms. Lake had lost the election to Defendant-Contestee
14 Katie Hobbs, Plaintiff stayed true to her promise. But she has not simply failed to publicly
15 acknowledge the election results. Instead, she filed a groundless, seventy-page election
16 contest lawsuit against the Governor-Elect, the Secretary of State, and Maricopa County and
17 several of its elected officials and employees (but no other county or its employees), thereby
18 dragging them and this Court into this frivolous pursuit. "Section 12-349 was enacted with
19 the express purpose of reducing groundless lawsuits." *Phoenix Newspapers, Inc. v. Dep't of*
20 *Corr., State of Ariz.*, 188 Ariz. 237, 244 (App. 1997). And this is surely such a lawsuit.

21 Ms. Lake's and her counsel's sustained attack on Arizona elections began well
22 before this election contest, when she filed a lawsuit against most of the defendants here that
23 relied, among other things, on an allegation that Arizona does not use paper ballots. See

24
25 ¹ Although the Maricopa County Defendants included a request for sanctions under Ariz.
26 R. Civ. P. 11 in their Motion to Dismiss this action, because of the short time frames
27 required by the election contest statutes and this Court's Orders the Maricopa County
28 Defendants have not had the opportunity to comply with all of the Rule 11 requirements
regarding providing notice to Plaintiff and her counsel. As such, they seek sanctions only
under A.R.S. § 12-349 even though Plaintiff and her counsel's conduct would surely also
support a sanctions award under Rule 11.

1 *Lake v. Hobbs*, No. CV-22-00677-PHX-JJT, --- F. Supp. 3d. ---, 2022 WL 17351715, at *1
2 (D. Ariz. Dec. 1, 2022) (“*Lake I*”) (noting that Plaintiffs asked “for the Court to Order, an
3 election conducted by paper ballot, as an alternative to the current framework”). In this
4 action, however, the bulk of her claims focused on complaints about those very paper ballots
5 – how they were printed at vote centers on election day and how Maricopa County
6 maintained the chain of custody for early ballots dropped off on election day. [*See, e.g.*,
7 Compl. at ¶¶ 137-48, 157-62]

8 The district court sanctioned Mr. Olsen and Ms. Lake’s other counsel in *Lake I* for
9 filing and perpetuating that lawsuit, but declined to sanction Ms. Lake. *Lake I*, at *15
10 (explaining that the court would decline to sanction either of the Plaintiffs, despite the fact
11 that “the [c]ourt does not find that Plaintiffs have acted appropriately in this litigation” and
12 sharing “concerns expressed by other federal courts about misuse of the judicial system to
13 baselessly cast doubt on the electoral process in a manner that is conspicuously consistent
14 with the plaintiffs’ political ends”). Instead of taking to heart the importance of bringing
15 only claims that are justified by the law and facts, however, Plaintiff and her counsel doubled
16 down with the present action. This Court should sanction both lawyers and client under
17 A.R.S. § 12-349 to impart to them the seriousness of their misuse of the courts to seek to
18 undermine Arizona elections and impugn hardworking elections workers and officials for
19 purely political – not legal – purposes.

20 Factual and Procedural Background

21 **A. The Dismissed Claims**

22 Instead of filing a concise statement of grounds for relief under the election contest
23 statutes, Plaintiff took a “throw everything at the wall and see what sticks” approach in this
24 litigation. Doing so led to a ten-count Complaint that sought extensive relief that is not
25 permitted by the election contest statutes. [*See generally* Compl.] Indeed, this Court granted
26 in part the motions to dismiss filed by the Maricopa County Defendants and the other
27 defendants, dismissing eight of the ten counts including those under the First and Fourteenth
28 Amendment, as well as a separate, duplicative § 1983 claim. [*See Lake v. Hobbs*, No.

1 CV2022-095403, Under Advisement Ruling, at 2-4, 9-10, 12, Dec. 19, 2022 (“Order on
2 MTD”) (dismissing Counts I, V, VI, and X)] The Court also dismissed on laches grounds
3 claims or portions of claims that related to election procedures, which should have been
4 brought months or years before the election. [*Id.* at 7-8, 10 (dismissing Counts III, and VII)]
5 And the Court dismissed claims that sought relief that is not available within the narrow
6 statutory confines of an election contest. [*Id.* at 10-12 (dismissing Counts VIII, IX, and X)]

7 **B. The Claims that Went to Trial**

8 Following this Court’s ruling on the Defendants’ Motions to Dismiss, this Court
9 permitted two of Plaintiff’s ten claims, as narrowed by the December 19, 2022 Order, to
10 proceed to trial. This Court gave Plaintiff a clear road map of what she must prove at trial:
11 “Plaintiff must show at trial that the BOD printer malfunctions [and alleged failure to
12 maintain chain of custody] were intentional, and directed to affect the results of the election,
13 and that such actions did actually affect the outcome.” [Order on MTD, at 6-7] Yet Plaintiff
14 failed to put on a single witness who could credibly testify that any Defendant or person
15 under the control of the Defendants engaged in any misconduct that affected the outcome of
16 the election. [*See Lake v. Hobbs*, No. CV2022-095403, Under Advisement Ruling, at 8,
17 Dec. 19, 2022 (“Tr. Order”)] And among Plaintiff’s multiple thousands of pages of disclosed
18 exhibits, there was not a single piece of evidence that such misconduct had occurred.
19 Consequently, this Court found that Plaintiff had failed to prove even one of the four
20 elements of her two remaining claims. [*Id.* at 9-10 (stating that “[t]he Court DOES NOT
21 find clear and convincing evidence [a] of misconduct in violation of A.R.S. § 16-672(A)(1);
22 [b] that such misconduct was committed by ‘an officer making or participating in a canvass’
23 under A.R.S. § 16-672(A)(1); [c] that such misconduct was intended to affect the result of
24 the 2022 General Election; [and] [d] that such misconduct did in fact affect the result of the
25 2022 General Election”)]

26 Plaintiff and her attorneys knew—or, at least, they *should* have known—that they
27 had no witness testimony or evidence that would allow them to meet the Court’s required
28 showing, yet they refused to voluntarily dismiss this action. The ethical rules that attorneys

1 must follow require that “[a] lawyer shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or
2 controvert an issue therein, unless there is a good faith basis in law and fact for doing so that
3 is not frivolous[.]” Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, ER 3.1.² To avoid violating ER
4 3.1, attorneys must undertake an investigation of the facts and evidence supporting a client’s
5 case before bringing that case. They also must ascertain that the facts and evidence allow
6 them to continue to make “good faith and nonfrivolous” arguments in favor of their client’s
7 position as the case develops. ER 3.1, Comment 2.³ “What is required of lawyers . . . is that
8 they inform themselves about the facts of their clients’ cases and the applicable law and
9 determine that they can make good faith and nonfrivolous arguments in support of their
10 clients’ positions.” *Id.* The action is frivolous “if the lawyer is unable either to make a
11 nonfrivolous argument on the merits of the action taken or a good faith and nonfrivolous
12 argument for an extension, modification or reversal of existing law.” *Id.* Leslie Levin, a
13 professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law who is an expert concerning legal
14 ethics, has opined that “[l]awyers have to make a reasonable inquiry to determine that there
15 is evidence supporting their factual allegations under Rule 11” in order to bring or continue
16 their cases. *American Bar Association*, “What is a lawyer’s ethical duty to check out a
17 client’s claim” (April 1, 2021), *available at*
18 [https://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/election-fraud-cases-highlight-ethics-rules-](https://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/election-fraud-cases-highlight-ethics-rules-on-baseless-complaints)
19 [on-baseless-complaints](https://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/election-fraud-cases-highlight-ethics-rules-on-baseless-complaints).

20 Even in expedited election contest litigation, Plaintiff’s attorneys had an ethical duty
21 to conduct an investigation of the facts supporting their arguments in favor of their client’s
22 position. Although, as explained in footnote 1, *supra*, this Motion for Sanctions is not being
23 brought pursuant to Rule 11, that is nonetheless what Rule 11 requires of attorneys as officers

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25 ² Plaintiff has two attorneys, Brian Blehm and Kurt Olsen. Mr. Blehm is a member of the
26 Arizona Bar and so bound to follow the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct. Mr. Olsen
27 is a member of the D.C. Bar and so bound to follow the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct.
28 Its Rule 3.1 has identical language—and, thus, identical requirements—as Arizona’s ER 3.1.

³ The language of DC Rule 3.1, Comment 2 is substantial similar to the language of ER 3.1,
Comment 2 and imposes the same ethical obligations.

1 of the court. Pursuant to that obligation and the requirements of the Rules of Professional
2 Conduct, Plaintiff’s counsel should have conducted such an investigation, including
3 interviewing their expert and fact witnesses sufficiently to know what they were going to
4 say before putting them on the stand. Had they done so, they would have known that they
5 could not prove any of Plaintiff’s claims that were ultimately before this Court.

6 If Plaintiff’s attorneys did not conduct the basic investigation just described, they
7 violated their duties as officers of the court. If they did conduct this basic investigation
8 required by Rule 11 and the Rules of Professional Conduct, then they knew that they could
9 not produce testimony and evidence to meet their client’s burden of proof yet continued this
10 action anyway, forcing the parties and this Court into a two-day trial even though they knew
11 that they had no possibility of meeting Plaintiff’s burden.

12 Argument

13 **I. Plaintiff’s Filing and Perpetuating this Groundless Election Contest Warrants**
14 **an Award of Attorneys’ Fees to Defendants.**

15 Election contests are purely statutory and provide for limited forms of relief.
16 *Grounds v. Lawe*, 67 Ariz. 176, 186 (1948). As this Court noted in its December 24, 2022
17 Order, one contesting an election has an extremely high bar to prove her claims. Indeed,
18 the Court (1) presumes the good faith of election officials as a matter of law, *Hunt v.*
19 *Campbell*, 19 Ariz. 254, 268 (1917), and (2) draws “all reasonable presumptions [to] favor
20 the validity of an election.” *Moore v. City of Page*, 148 Ariz. 151, 155 (App. 1986).
21 Moreover, Lake was required to prove the elements of her claim by clear and convincing
22 evidence. *McClung v. Bennett*, 225 Ariz. 154, 156, ¶ 7 (2010).

23 Election contests are also rare. Until 2020, the history of election contests in Arizona
24 involved cases where the margin of victory was just a few votes. *See, e.g., Prutch v. Town*
25 *of Quartzsite*, 231 Ariz. 431, 433, ¶ 2 (App. 2013) (33 votes); *Findley v. Sorenson*, 35 Ariz.
26 265, 267-68 (1929) (49 votes); *Hunt*, 19 Ariz. at 261-62 (67 votes). This is not such a case.
27 As this Court noted, Governor-Elect Hobbs’ margin of victory was 17,117 votes and setting
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1 such a margin aside “has never been done in the history of the United States.” [See Tr.
2 Order, at 3] Indeed, the margin of victory in this case was large enough to take it outside
3 the newly-expanded automatic recount requirement. See A.R.S. § 16-661(A). Yet, without
4 identifying anywhere near that number of votes that were erroneously counted or not
5 counted, Plaintiff and her counsel instituted this action.

6 Against the exacting standard for proving her claims in this election contest, Plaintiff
7 put on several witnesses, not a single one of whom was able to testify that Defendants
8 engaged in any misconduct that was intended to affect the outcome of the election and
9 actually did affect the outcome. [See Tr. Order, at 8 (“Every one of Plaintiff’s witnesses –
10 and for that matter, Defendants’ witnesses as well – was asked about any personal
11 knowledge of both intentional misconduct and intentional misconduct directed to impact
12 the 2022 General Election. Every single witness before the Court disclaimed any personal
13 knowledge of such misconduct.”)]

14 Based on Plaintiff’s lack of any evidence necessary to prove her claims yet
15 continuing this litigation anyway, sanctions in the form of an award of attorneys’ fees under
16 A.R.S. § 12-349 in favor of the Maricopa County Defendants is more than warranted. That
17 statute requires a fee award if an attorney or party engages in certain forms of misconduct,
18 including bringing a claim “without substantial justification” or “unreasonably expands or
19 delays the proceeding.” A.R.S. § 12-349(A)(1), (3). Plaintiff and her counsel meet the
20 requirements here.

21 The phrase “without substantial justification” means that “the claim or defense is
22 groundless and is not made in good faith.” A.R.S. § 12-349(F). “Groundlessness is
23 determined objectively whereas harassment and bad faith are subjective determinations.”
24 *Rogone v. Correia*, 236 Ariz. 43, 50 ¶ 22 (App. 2014). “‘Groundless’ and ‘frivolous’ are
25 equivalent terms, and a claim is frivolous ‘if the proponent can present no rational argument
26 based upon the evidence or law in support of that claim.’” *Id.* (quotation omitted). The
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1 standard for an award under A.R.S. § 12-349 is a preponderance of the evidence. *Fisher on*
2 *Behalf of Fisher v. Nat'l Gen. Ins. Co.*, 192 Ariz. 366, 369-370 (App. 1998).⁴

3 There is no question that Plaintiff's claims here were both "groundless" and "not
4 made in good faith." As noted above, Plaintiff had decided well before the election that if
5 the results did not favor her, she would deny that they were legitimate. And she misused
6 this Court to do so. Even after this Court dismissed the bulk of her claims and explained to
7 Plaintiff that she could not succeed on the remaining two claims without proving by clear
8 and convincing evidence that Defendants (1) engaged in intentional misconduct,
9 (2) designed to affect the result of the 2022 general election, and (3) that actually affected
10 the result, Plaintiff continued this lawsuit—despite knowing she had no ability to meet her
11 burden. *See Standage v. Jaburg & Wilk, P.C.*, 177 Ariz. 221, 229-30 (App. 1993) (citing
12 *Boone v. Super. Ct.*, 145 Ariz. 235, 241-42 (1985)) (stating that attorney had an obligation
13 "to review and reevaluate his client's position as the facts of the case developed and—
14 although he should have known at the outset that the claims were frivolous—if he did not
15 know at the outset, as he became aware of information that should reasonably lead him to
16 believe there was no factual or legal bases for his position").

17 Plaintiff's claims were also made in bad faith, as demonstrated by her scattershot
18 approach to litigation, her claims' lack of legal and factual merit, and this action's place as
19 part of a larger scheme carried out by Plaintiff to spread disinformation about elections and
20 election results in Maricopa County.⁵ And she has not stopped. Despite this Court's ruling

21 _____
22 ⁴ In awarding attorneys' fees under § 12-349, a court must "set forth the specific reasons
23 for the award and may include" any of eight specified factors, "as relevant, in its
24 consideration" of the award. A.R.S. § 12-350. The purpose of this requirement is to assist
the appellate court on review, so the court's findings "need only be specific enough to
allow an appellate court to test the validity of the judgment." *Bennett v. Baxter Grp., Inc.*,
223 Ariz. 414, 421 (App. 2010) (quotation omitted).

25 ⁵ Lake's Twitter posts are full of statements and links regarding things that she was unable
to prove in this litigation. *See, e.g.*,
26 [https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1605012367242235906?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1605012367242235906?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-Z5RqgSBsyGCPw)
[Z5RqgSBsyGCPw](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1605012367242235906?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-Z5RqgSBsyGCPw) (Dec. 19, 2022) (describing "botched, stolen, sham elections");
27 [https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1605011070552195077?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1605011070552195077?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-Z5RqgSBsyGCPw)
[Z5RqgSBsyGCPw](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1605011070552195077?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-Z5RqgSBsyGCPw) (Dec. 19, 2022) (asserting that those who run elections in Arizona are
"rigging" them);
28 https://twitter.com/TPAction_/status/1604902923741171712?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-

1 finding that Plaintiff had utterly failed to prove any of her claims, yesterday—on December
2 25, 2022—Ms. Lake attacked this Court’s integrity. She tweeted, “The Dismissal of Kari
3 Lake’s Election Lawsuit Shows Voter Disenfranchisement No Longer Matters @Rach_IC:
4 ‘Legal experts believe his decision [by Judge Thompson] was ghostwritten, they suspect
5 top left-wing attorneys like Marc Elias emailed him what to say.’” @KariLake, *available*
6 *at* <https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1607265757133680641>.

7 As Arizona House of Representatives Speaker Rusty Bowers testified to Congress
8 about a statement that Rudy Giuliani made to him following the 2020 election, Plaintiff here
9 may have “had a lot of theories, [she] just didn’t have any evidence.” *See*
10 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI6NsqizuQE>. Indeed, the entire purpose of this
11 litigation was to plant baseless seeds of doubt in the electorate’s mind about the integrity
12 and security of the 2022 General Election in Maricopa County. And while it is one thing
13 to do so on TV or social media sites, it is another thing entirely to attempt to use the
14 imprimatur of the courts to try to achieve that goal. Plaintiff’s obvious attempt to do so
15 here merits sanctions under A.R.S. § 12-349(A)(1).

16 **B. Unnecessary Expansion of the Proceedings**

17 The election contest statutes provide that a person filing such a contest shall name
18 “the person whose right to the office is contested.” A.R.S. § 16-673(A)(2). Unlike a
19 challenge to nomination petitions under A.R.S. § 16-351, the election contest statutes do not
20 identify as indispensable parties the filing officer (here, the Secretary of State) or the “board
21 of supervisors and the recorder of each county . . . who is responsible for preparing the ballots
22 that contain the challenged candidate's name.” A.R.S. § 16-351(C)(2)-(3). Yet Plaintiff

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24 [Z5RqgSBsyGCPw](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1602189683009601537?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-Z5RqgSBsyGCPw) (Dec. 19, 2022) (“My pronouns are: I/Won”) (retweeted by Lake);
25 [https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1602189683009601537?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1602189683009601537?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-Z5RqgSBsyGCPw)
26 [Z5RqgSBsyGCPw](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1602189683009601537?s=20&t=18Xuzoec-Z5RqgSBsyGCPw) (Dec. 11, 2022) (linking to an article in The Gateway Pundit asserting
27 that chain of custody for ballot packets delivered to Runbeck Election Services on election
28 day did not exist). Even after this Court ruled, she has asserted on Twitter that she proved
her case. *See*
[https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1606724410215653376?s=20&t=ChQyztRBBiogbtQ](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1606724410215653376?s=20&t=ChQyztRBBiogbtQmsMusTg)
[msMusTg](https://twitter.com/KariLake/status/1606724410215653376?s=20&t=ChQyztRBBiogbtQmsMusTg) (Dec. 24, 2022) (stating that “My Election Case provided the world with
evidence that proves our elections are run outside of the law.”).

1 expanded these proceedings by naming as defendants Maricopa County, the members of its
2 Board of Supervisors, the Maricopa County Recorder, and its Co-Director of Elections.

3 Indeed, even if the court takes a broad view of the election contest statutes and
4 determines that it would be appropriate to name as defendants those persons who were
5 members of county election boards or officers responsible for making or participating in a
6 canvass for a state election, Plaintiff had no cause to name Recorder Richer or Mr. Jarrett as
7 defendants in this action. *See* A.R.S. § 16-672(A)(1). Neither Recorder Richer nor Mr.
8 Jarrett were members of an election board, nor did they make or participate in the state
9 canvass. Indeed, the only role that the members of the Maricopa County Board of
10 Supervisors had in the state canvass was to provide a copy of the County canvass to the
11 Secretary for inclusion therein. Accordingly, Plaintiff needless expanded these proceedings
12 and this Court should also grant sanctions under A.R.S. § 12-349(A)(3).

13 APPLICATION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES

14 I. The Requested Fees Are Appropriate and Reasonable.

15 Having established that they are entitled to an award of attorney's fees under A.R.S.
16 § 12-349, the Maricopa County Defendants seek an award in the amount of \$25,050. This
17 includes \$18,730 in fees to attorneys from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office
18 ("MCAO"), and \$6,320 in fees to outside counsel Emily Craiger of the Burgess Law Group.

19 The fees just described are only the fees incurred during the two days of trial in this
20 matter, which was conducted on December 21 and 22, 2022. The Maricopa County
21 Defendants note that they incurred significant fees defending against this action beyond the
22 \$25,050 that they seek here. This Court, however, ordered on Christmas Eve that any motion
23 for sanctions must be made by 8:00 a.m. on December 26, 2022—the day after Christmas.
24 It is unclear to the Maricopa County Defendants whether the Court intends for fee
25 applications to be submitted as part of the motion for sanctions or whether the Court intends
26 for such applications to be submitted at a later date.

27 The MCAO attorneys and Ms. Craiger are unable to export their time from their
28 electronic time-keeping systems into a spreadsheet without clerical help, and the Maricopa

1 County Defendants and Ms. Craiger are unwilling to require that their respective support
2 staff work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As a result, the Maricopa County
3 Defendants have directed their attorneys, including Ms. Craiger, to submit a fee application
4 with their motion for sanctions that seeks only their fees for the two days of trial, which are
5 known quantities and do not require exporting electronic records. If this Court decides to
6 grant the motion for sanctions but postpone a determination of the fee award, and so issues
7 its Judgment pursuant to Rule 54(B), the Maricopa County Defendants will file a
8 supplemental fee application to seek the full, reasonable amount of their attorney's fees.

9 Arizona courts follow the "lodestar" method for determining attorney's fees awards.
10 *See, e.g., Schweiger v. China Doll Rest., Inc.*, 138 Ariz. 183, 187-88 (Ct. App. 1983)
11 (hereafter, "*China Doll*") (holding that an appropriate fee award is determined by
12 multiplying the reasonable hourly rate by the number of reasonable hours expended). The
13 *China Doll* court set forth four factors to be utilized by courts to determine whether the rate
14 charged by the attorneys and the hours they expended were reasonable (the "*China Doll*
15 Factors"):

16 (1) the qualities of the advocate: his ability, his training, education,
17 experience, professional standing and skill;

18 (2) the character of the work to be done: its difficulty, its intricacy, its
19 importance, time and skill required, the responsibility imposed and the
20 prominence and character of the parties where they affect the importance of
21 the litigation;

22 (3) the work actually performed by the lawyer: the skill, time and
23 attention given to the work;

24 (4) the result: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits
25 were derived.

26 *Id.* at 187. As demonstrated below, the *China Doll* Factors support awarding the Maricopa
27 County Defendants \$25,050 in attorney's fees.

1 **A. The Quality of the Advocates.**

2 Plaintiff brought a seventy-page Complaint with thousands of pages of exhibits
3 alleging multiple violations of constitutional law as well as multiple violations of election
4 law. These allegations, though groundless from the get-go, were nonetheless complex. To
5 defend against Plaintiff’s Complaint, the Maricopa County Defendants deployed several
6 attorneys from the MCAO’s Election Law Team and also retained outside counsel Emily
7 Craiger from the Burgess Law Group. As explained in their declarations, the four most
8 senior attorneys have significant election law, constitutional law, and litigation experience.
9 They also have significant experience with Maricopa County’s election practices and
10 procedures. One of the two other attorneys has significant litigation experience, and the
11 other is a new attorney whose billing rate was appropriately discounted.

12 **B. Character of the Work.**

13 This was an election contest, which pursuant to statute was highly expedited, and
14 which required a large amount of work by the attorneys within a very short period of time.
15 This included drafting a motion to dismiss and participating in the motion to dismiss hearing,
16 drafting an opposition to a motion to expedite discovery, representing the Maricopa County
17 Defendants’ Election Department at a court-ordered inspection of the ballots by Plaintiff,
18 preparing witnesses and witness examinations for trial, reviewing Plaintiff’s thousands of
19 pages of exhibits, including reports of those that she intended to offer as experts, preparing
20 for cross-examinations of Plaintiff’s witnesses, and participating in the trial. *All of this*
21 *occurred within a very compressed time period less than two weeks in length.*

22 Further, the nature of the matter as an election contest necessarily implicated an
23 intricate body of the law, requiring special expertise. Plaintiffs further attempted to insert
24 constitutional claims not allowed under the election contest statutes, further complicating
25 this matter, and which similarly required special expertise.

26 The work performed by counsel would have been difficult and complicated under
27 ordinary circumstances. Considering the circumstances under which counsel actually
28 operated, the difficulty and intricacy was significant.

1 Additionally, this matter concerned whether the vote of the people of Arizona to select
2 their next governor would be confirmed or set aside. The constitutional right of the people
3 to choose their leaders was at stake. It is difficult to imagine many matters more important
4 than this one.

5 **C. The Work Actually Performed.**

6 In accordance with *China Doll*, the declarations of the counsel (Exhibit 1), and the
7 accompanying time entries (Exhibit 2), “indicate the type of legal services provided, the date
8 the service was provided, the attorney providing the service . . . , and the time spent in
9 providing the service.” 138 Ariz. at 188. Again, the Maricopa County Defendants note that
10 they are *only* seeking their fees in this Application for the time that their attorneys spent
11 working on this matter during the two-day trial. If, however, the Court intends for fee
12 applications to be submitted at a future date, they will submit a supplemental fee application
13 seeking to recover the full, reasonable amount of their fees incurred defending against
14 Plaintiff’s groundless claims in this matter.

15 **D. The Results Achieved.**

16 As a result of the work that the Maricopa County Defendant’s counsel performed, the
17 Court dismissed eight of Plaintiff’s ten claims in her Complaint and denied the expedited
18 discovery that Plaintiff sought. The Court also ruled in the Maricopa County Defendant’s
19 favor after trial, confirming the Maricopa County (and Arizona) election for governor.
20

21 **CONCLUSION**

22 Courts are established by Arizona’s Constitution and statutes to resolve actual
23 disputes between parties. They do not exist so that candidates for political office can
24 attempt to make political statements and fundraise. And they should not be used to harass
25 political opponents and sow *completely unfounded* doubts about the integrity of elections.
26 All of those things happened in this matter.

27 Enough really is enough. It is past time to end unfounded attacks on elections and
28 unwarranted accusations against elections officials. This matter was brought without any

1 legitimate justification, let alone a substantial one. The Maricopa County Defendants
2 therefore ask this Court to impose sanctions against Plaintiff Kari Lake and her attorneys,
3 Brian Blehm and Kurt Olsen.

4 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 26th day of December, 2022.

5
6 RACHEL H. MITCHELL
MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

7 BY: /s/Thomas P. Liddy
8 Thomas P. Liddy
9 Joseph J. Branco
10 Joseph E. La Rue
11 Karen J. Hartman-Tellez
12 Jack L. O'Connor
13 Sean M. Moore
14 Rosa Aguilar
15 Deputy County Attorneys

16 THE BURGESS LAW GROUP

17 BY: /s/Emily Craiger
18 Emily Craiger

19 *Attorneys for Maricopa County Defendants*

20 ORIGINAL of the foregoing E-FILED
21 this 26th day of December 2022 with
22 AZTURBOCOURT, and copies e-served / emailed to:

23 HONORABLE PETER THOMPSON
24 MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
25 Sarah Umphress, Judicial Assistant
26 Sarah.Umphress@JBAZMC.Maricopa.Gov

27 Bryan J. Blehm
28 BLEHM LAW PLLC
10869 North Scottsdale Road Suite 103-256
Scottsdale Arizona 85254
bryan@blehmlegal.com

1 Kurt Olsen
2 OLSEN LAW, P.C.
3 1250 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 700
4 Washington, DC 20036
5 ko@olsenlawpc.com
6 *Attorney for Contestant/Plaintiff*

7 Daniel C. Barr
8 Alexis E. Danneman
9 Austin C. Yost
10 Samantha J. Burke
11 PERKINS COIE LLP
12 2901 North Central Avenue, Suite 2000
13 Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2788
14 dbarr@perkinscoie.com
15 adanneman@perkinscoie.com
16 ayost@perkinscoie.com
17 sburke@perkinscoie.com

18 Abha Khanna
19 ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP
20 1700 Seventh Ave, Suite 2100
21 Seattle, WA 98101
22 akhanna@elias.law

23 Lalitha D. Madduri
24 Christina Ford
25 Elena Rodriguez Armenta
26 ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP
27 250 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 400
28 Washington, D.C. 20001
29 lmadduri@elias.law
30 cford@elias.law
31 erodriguezarmenta@elias.law
32 *Attorneys for Contestee Katie Hobbs*

33 D. Andrew Gaona
34 COPPERSMITH BROCKELMAN PLC
35 2800 North Central Avenue, Suite 1900
36 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
37 agoana@cblawyers.com
38 *Attorney for Defendant Secretary of State Katie Hobbs*

39 Sambo Dul
40 STATES UNITED DEMOCRACY CENTER

1 8205 South Priest Drive, #10312
2 Tempe, Arizona 85284
3 bo@statesuniteddemocracycenter.org
4 *Attorney for Defendant Secretary of State Katie Hobbs*

5 James E. Barton II
6 BARTON MENDEZ SOTO PLLC
7 401 West Baseline Road Suite 205
8 Tempe, Arizona 85283
9 James@bartonmendezsoto.com

10 E. Danya Perry (pro hac vice forthcoming)
11 Rachel Fleder (pro hac vice forthcoming)
12 Joshua Stanton (pro hac vice forthcoming)
13 Lilian Timmermann (pro hac vice forthcoming)
14 PERRY GUHA LLP
15 1740 Broadway, 15th Floor
16 New York, NY 10019
17 dperry@perryguha.com
18 *Attorneys for Amici Curiae*
19 *Helen Purcell and Tammy Patrick*

20 */s/ Joseph E. La Rue*

28