

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHRISTOPHER M. COMINS,

CASE NO.

Plaintiff,

vs.

MATTHEW FREDERICK VANVOORHIS,

Defendant.

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**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, CHRISTOPHER M. COMINS, by and through his undersigned counsel, sues Defendant, MATTHEW FREDERICK VANVOORHIS, and files his Complaint as follows:

**Jurisdiction and Venue**

1. This is an action for damages in excess of \$15,000 exclusive of interest, attorneys' fees and costs, and therefore this Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter.
2. Plaintiff is an individual residing in Orange County, Florida.
3. Defendant is an individual believed to be residing in Florida, and therefore this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant.
4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 47.011 because it is the county where the cause of action accrued.

**General Factual Allegations**

5. On May 19, 2008, Plaintiff was involved in an incident in Orange County where he was forced to shoot what initially appeared to be two wolves attacking a calf and small herd of cows.
6. Plaintiff personally observed the two aggressive animals charging at the cows in a predatory manner in an attempt to separate a calf from the rest of the group.

7. After the incident, these animals were identified as dogs, and shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as “dogs.”

8. The dogs, who had pinned the cows into one corner of the pasture, were exhibiting predatory behavior and the cows were clearly in danger of being killed or seriously injured.

9. Witnesses on the scene had alerted a local fire station and called 911 out of concern for the endangered cows. Worried callers to the Sheriff’s Office and Animal Control reported seeing two “wolves” attacking the cows, but no government agency responded to the situation.

10. After receiving permission from the property owner, and at the express request of the owner of the cattle, Plaintiff reluctantly undertook the task of protecting the calves and cattle.

11. Defendant, Matthew Frederick Vanvoorhis, periodically posts “articles” or “updates” to two websites: <http://publicintellectual.wordpress.com> and [www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com](http://www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com).

12. WordPress is a free, self-hosted blogging tool that allows private individuals to create and post their own “blogs” to the Internet.

13. Since the incident, Defendant regularly uses both sites to further his mission of defaming Plaintiff and attacking Plaintiff’s character. See 2008 articles: “Christopher Comins: Barbarian Hillbilly Dog-Assassin (w/ Friends in High Places)” and “Christopher Comins Husky-Shooter Update: Chris Comins may Face Charges.”

14. In a blog post on [www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com](http://www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com) dated May 8, 2010, in response to an entry dated February 13, 2010, Defendant published:

“Christopher Comins is a violent man. His repeated offenses against the greater Orlando community are a matter of public concern.”

(Attached as Exhibit "1" and incorporated by reference).

15. In an entry on [www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com](http://www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com) dated May 19, 2010, Defendant, describing Plaintiff, published:

"an armed businessman **with a history of violence** and a green light to fire away—or so he thought."

(Emphasis added). (Attached as Exhibit "2" and incorporated by reference).

16. In an entry on [www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com](http://www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com) dated August 14, 2010, Defendant published:

"In other words, Comins still thinks it's unfair and illegal to require citizens not to abuse or torture other people's pet dogs."

*and*

"The aim of this motion is to block the prosecution to being able to inform the jury about Comins' **violent past**. In other words, Comins wants the judge to rule that the details of his **violent past** are inadmissible in the criminal trial. That way, the jury will be falsely led to presume Comins' 2008 attack on Hoochie and Raley was not the first time he misused a firearm in an insane and unsafe manner. **Comins would prefer to have the jury believe his 2005 assault on a child never happened. But it did happen, as numerous news outlets have reported.**"

(Emphasis added). (Attached as Exhibit "3" and incorporated by reference).

17. In an entry on [www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com](http://www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com) dated November 15, 2010, Defendant stated that Plaintiff "lied" to the police regarding the incident. (Attached as Exhibit "4" and incorporated by reference).

18. In an entry on [www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com](http://www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com) dated January 21, 2011, Defendant published:

"We had a right to disagree with Comins' decision to keep shooting the dogs as their owner begged him to stop."

(Attached as Exhibit "5" and incorporated by reference).

19. In an entry on [www.publicintellectual.wordpress.com](http://www.publicintellectual.wordpress.com) dated January 25, 2011,

Defendant published:

“It is okay that a man like Chris Comins can point his gun’s laser at a little boy’s forehead; and it is okay that after he gets a slap on the wrist for that he can open fire on two pet dogs while dozens of pedestrians are right behind him.”

(Attached as Exhibit “6” and incorporated by reference).

20. Defendant misrepresents the timeline, sequence and facts of this incident to cast Plaintiff in a false and negative light, and to incite hatred against Plaintiff while stoking the flames of public outcry.

21. Defendant continues to use website links and optimization to direct the public to read blog entries created by Defendant and known by Defendant to include false and incriminating misrepresentations.

22. Despite the ongoing attacks by Defendant, on January 12, 2011, Circuit Criminal Judge Bob LeBlanc dismissed all criminal charges against Plaintiff at the close of the State of Florida’s case, and specifically stated on the record, “This was not someone who was torturing an animal.”

23. Defendant is a private individual posting anonymously to the Internet. However, in light of this Court’s prior rulings, Plaintiff complied with Fla. Stat. § 770.01 and served Defendant pre-suit notice of this action on September 14, 2011. (Attached as Exhibit “7” (without voluminous exhibits) and incorporated by reference). Defendant’s response is attached as Exhibit “8” and incorporated by reference.

**Count I – Defamation: Libel**

24. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 22 above as though fully set forth herein.

25. Defendant published false and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff, including those described in paragraphs 14 through 19 above, either negligently or with actual malice.

26. The statements were published to individuals visiting the aforementioned websites and are accessible to roughly millions of people on the Internet.

27. The false and defamatory nature of Defendant's statements portray Plaintiff as violent and erratic, and caused irreparable harm to Plaintiff, his reputation, and his business.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHRISTOPHER M. COMINS respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against Defendant, MATTHEW FREDERICK VANVOORHIS for all damages allowable under the law and any other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

#### **Count II – Defamation: Libel Per Se**

28. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 22 above as though fully set forth herein.

29. Defendant published false and defamatory statements regarding Plaintiff, including those described in paragraphs 14 through 19 above, either negligently or with actual malice.

30. The statements were published to individuals visiting the aforementioned websites and are accessible to roughly millions of people on the Internet.

31. The false and defamatory nature of Defendant's statements caused irreparable harm to Plaintiff, his reputation, and his business.

32. Defendant's statements are defamatory per se, subjecting Plaintiff to hatred, disgust and contempt.

33. The false and defamatory statements portray Plaintiff as violent and erratic, and impute to Plaintiff criminally felonious conduct, and conduct or characteristics incompatible with the proper exercise of Plaintiff's lawful business, trade and profession.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHRISTOPHER M. COMINS respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against Defendant, MATTHEW FREDERICK VANVOORHIS for all damages allowable under the law and any other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

**Count III – Defamation by Implication**

34. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 22 above as though fully set forth herein.

35. Defendant published facts regarding Plaintiff and the incident that were defamatory in that they created a false impression regarding Plaintiff.

36. Defendant juxtaposed a series of facts so as to imply a defamatory connection between them or, in the alternative, created a defamatory implication by omitting facts when describing the nature and sequence of events during the incident.

37. The statements were published to individuals visiting the aforementioned websites and are accessible to roughly millions of people on the Internet.

38. A reasonable person would understand Defendant's statements to impart the false innuendo, which would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.

39. Defendant intended or endorsed the defamatory inference that his words created.

40. The false impression of Plaintiff which Defendant created -- that he was violent, erratic and guilty of criminal conduct -- caused irreparable harm to Plaintiff, his reputation, and his business.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHRISTOPHER M. COMINS respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against Defendant, MATTHEW FREDERICK VANVOORHIS for all damages allowable under the law and any other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DATED: October 21, 2011.

KILLGORE, PEARLMAN, STAMP,  
ORNSTEIN & SQUIRES, P.A.  
2 South Orange Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P. O. Box 1913  
Orlando, FL 32802-1913  
Telephone: (407) 425-1020  
Facsimile: (407) 839-3635  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

s/ Frank H. Killgore, Jr.

Frank H. Killgore, Jr.  
Florida Bar No. 372420  
[fhkillgore@kpsos.com](mailto:fhkillgore@kpsos.com)  
Christopher M. Harne  
Florida Bar No. 0800791  
[charne@kpsos.com](mailto:charne@kpsos.com)

# Comins v. VanVoorhis

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## More Legal Problems for Accused Felon Chris Comins

Posted by [Matthew Frederick](#) on February 13, 2010 · [5 Comments](#)



This week I filed a counterclaim against dog shooter [Christopher Comins](#) for [Abuse of Process](#).

- **Document:** [Counterclaim against Chris Comins](#)

My contention is that [Comins' frivolous lawsuit against me](#) is a calculated attempt to intimidate myself and others from exercising our rights to free speech. Understandably, the accused animal cruelty felon does not want bloggers or news outlets reporting on his botched dog slaughter, which was [videotaped](#) by a tourist as shown above. As the [successful business owner](#) of a firm that does

REAL damage to me + it would please him way too much. He knows I don't like him but he's not out to get me presently. Very soon I hope to help, but.

Reply

2. *krisztina* says:

April 13, 2010 at 10:37 am

As a FL resident, i am 100% behind you. People like him need to be stopped, he will NOT win since it is you constitutional right to FREE SPEECH!! The judge will throw out his case

Reply

3. *FLResident* says:

May 7, 2010 at 12:48 pm

Bobbysue- What does any of that have to do with this case?  
In fact- isnt it obvious to you that this is just more abuse of "free speech" ?

Do you people not understand what the word "slander" means..?  
What benefit will come of listing c\*\*p like this from someone who obviously has a personal beef with Comins?

Oh yes, she promised to send you money..... Will you please grow up? This might be slightly amusing to watch if you werent wasting our tax dollars and courts time while you rally for dirt on Comins and \$\$\$\$\$\$!

Reply

◦ *Frederick V* says:

May 8, 2010 at 1:39 pm

Yes, I do know what slander means—the appropriate legal term is actually “defamation.” As well as what it doesn't mean. Apparently you and the dog shooter do not. By accusing of me defamation, Christopher Comins has forced me to defend my statements. And the more shocking things I learn about him, his friends, and their criminal histories, the easier it is for me to defend what I've written. It seems Mr. Comins has more enemies than friends, and a few of those enemies have chosen to rant anonymously about him on this site. Is that really my fault??

Christopher Comins is a violent man. His repeated offenses against the greater Orlando community are a matter of public concern. Once again, do your own research. I don't have to say or write another word (and, to be quite honest, I'm rather ready to move on with my life).

Reply

◦ *Ex-Disney Lover* says:

May 9, 2010 at 7:23 am

Psst... FLResident.... You do realize that VanVoorhis isn't the dog owner.... don't you? Because you seem to be directing all your anger toward the wrong individual...

Just saying.

Reply

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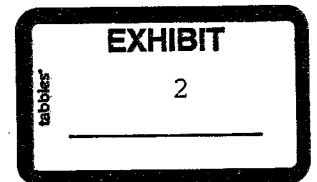
## How Everything Turns Away: A Message to Dog Lovers on the Two Year Anniversary of the Orlando Shooting

Posted by [Matthew Frederick](#) on May 19, 2010 · [Leave a Comment](#)

*Note: This post is dedicated to anyone who spoke out against the crimes of Christopher Comins—either by signing a petition, writing a blog, joining a Facebook group, attending rallies, or any other form of civic participation that sought justice for the shot Siberian huskies Hoochie and Raley. It is not written to anyone in particular.*



Hoochie, recovering from surgery to remove his eye, after being shot by Christopher Comins.



Perhaps you've all forgotten about it by now. So I'll remind you, again, that this happened—two years ago to this day—and justice has yet to arrive.

Even if some of the details are foggy now, surely you recall bits and pieces—a dog owner with a British

<http://cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com/2010/05/19/two-year-anniversary-of-the-orlando...> 9/14/2011

accent and two too few leashes; a pair of Siberian huskies and a bunch of cows; an armed businessman with a history of violence and a green light to fire away—or so he thought.

If you live in Florida and love dogs, you know the story of the infamous Orlando dog shooting. Prominent Orlando businessman Christopher Comins shot Siberian huskies Hoochie and Raley a total of seven times in a field off of Narcoossee Road.

The event was deemed newsworthy by all forms of media. Every major TV channel reported on it at least twice. ABC covered the story on *at least seven* different occasions.

Radio stations nationwide took note of the shootings too. The dogs' owner, Chris Butler, was invited to give radio interviews as far away as Phoenix, according to a defamation suit filed by the shooter against Butler. (See also Nazanin Rafsanjani's discussion on *National Public Radio*).

News articles appeared both online and print in a wide array of sources—from small-town newspapers like the *Bradenton Herald* to national ones such as the *New York Post*. Even the *National Enquirer* weighed in, describing the shooter as a “Callous Creep” and declaring he “Deserve(d) Jail” for opening fire on the innocent pets.

And of course, there was the infamous YouTube footage. Shot by an Irish tourist on her cell phone, this critical piece of evidence was the “smoking gun”—revealing not just Comins' cruel actions but also the large gap between his story and the truth.

Everyone responds differently the first time they watch the video. Some people want to cry. Others feel like throwing up.

But anger seemed to be the most prevalent reaction to the video. It sparked what ABC referred to as “worldwide outrage.” The *Orlando Sentinel* called it a “global outcry”

What about you? How did you respond?

I'll bet you were outraged, too. How did you deal with that outrage?

Some folks are big on petitions. Perhaps you were one of the 5,792 people who signed the first petition asking the State Attorney to conduct a thorough investigation. If so, do you feel that has happened? Are you satisfied your voice has been heard?

Or maybe you were part of the second wave of petitioning citizens—2,005 of them, to be exact—who signed the second petition demanding a maximum sentence and no plea deal.

Still others addressed their outrage by ranting on Internet message boards. Were you among the 1,661 readers who filled 68 pages of back-and-forth bickering on topix.net after the first Orlando Sentinel article was published? Did that make you feel better? Or did you just join a massive Facebook group or two and do your bickering there instead?

Which of these exercises quenched your thirst for justice? I tried all of them, but none of them worked for me. I couldn't trick myself. Even when they offered to drop all charges in exchange for my obedient silence, I couldn't “let it go” the way most have you have been able to do. At least, that's what I'm inferring from your silence.

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## New Developments in Criminal Trial: Shooter Calls Animal Cruelty Law "Unconstitutional" and Says His Violent Past is "Irrelevant"

Posted by [Matthew Frederick](#) on August 14, 2010 · [4 Comments](#)

There were two [new developments](#) this week in [Christopher Comins' criminal trial](#), public records show.

Both were motions filed by the defense on Wednesday August 11.

On the [Orange County Clerk of Courts website](#), the first motion is described as follows:

08/11/2010	<p><b>Motion</b>  <i>for Reconsideration of Interlocutory Rulings on His Pretrial Motions Seeking Dismissal on the Grounds That Florida's Animal Cruelty Statute is Unconstitutional Facially or as Applied</i></p>
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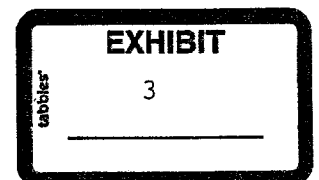
In other words, Comins still thinks it's unfair and illegal to require citizens not to abuse or torture other people's pet dogs. The part that's new about this is that the [Judge's November rejection of Comins' Motion to Dismiss](#) is now being characterized as "interlocutory"—i.e., temporary or provisional.

All the media reports seemed to be saying the judge's ruling was final. [See, for instance, the Orlando Sentinel's "[Charges Stand in SHooting of 2 Dogs](#)" or NBC's "[Judge: Animal Cruelty Case Will Go To Trial](#)"]. Was I missing the part where they clarified the ruling was only temporary?

Or are Comins' lawyers just playing their usual word games again—as they do when they say Comins was "required" to shoot the pets, or when they call dog-lovers' criticism of their client "horrific"?

The second motion:

08/11/2010	<p><b>Motion In Limine</b>  <i>to Perclude the State From Putting on Irrelevant and Highly Prejudicial Prior Crime Evidence</i></p>
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eFiled in the Office of Clerk of Court, Orange County Florida 2011 Oct 21 04:20 PM Lydia Gardner

The aim of this motion is to block the prosecution to being able to inform the jury about Comins' violent past. In other words, Comins wants the judge to rule that the details of his violent past are inadmissible in the criminal trial. That way, the jury will be falsely led to presume Comins' 2008 attack on Hoochie and Raley was not the first time he misused a firearm in an insane and unsafe manner. Comins would prefer to have the jury believe his 2005 assault on a child never happened. But it did happen, as numerous news outlets have reported.

From [ABC Eyewitness News](#):

It's not the first time the man has been in trouble because of a gun... Eyewitness News also found out the man has a gun violation in his past. Christopher Comins, 49, was charged with focusing his gun's laser site on his girlfriend's son's forehead. He pleaded no contest to a lesser charge and served one year probation.

The [Orlando Sentinel](#) clarified that

(Comins) was convicted in 2005 of improper exhibition of a firearm ([FL Stat. 790.10](#)) but retained his state permit to carry a concealed weapon because the judge withheld adjudication, records show.

[CNN iReport](#) revealed that Comins was initially charged with felony assault with a firearm ([FL Stat. 784.021](#))—"for putting a gun to someone's head and threatening to kill him. He later pled down to a mere misdemeanor."

[[View the complete register of actions from Comins' 2005 criminal case](#)].

To refer to these past crimes as "irrelevant" is just ridiculous.

Fortunately, that kind of an argument is not likely to fly with this particular judge.

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## Inadmissible Video??: YouTube Pet Shooter Wants to Prevent Jury from Seeing Footage of the Attack

Posted by [Matthew Frederick](#) on November 15, 2010 · [4 Comments](#)

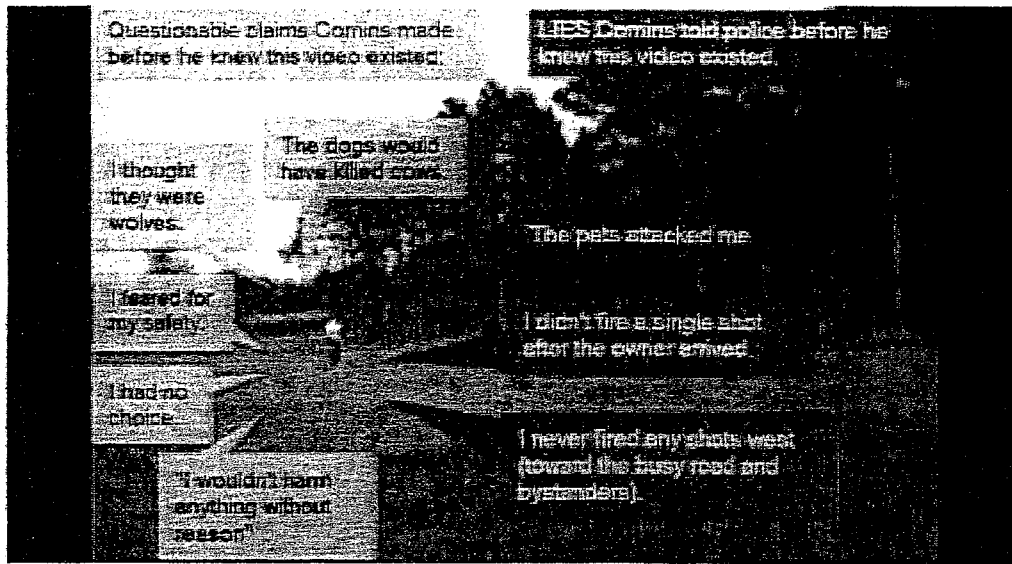


Dog shooter Christopher Comins is trying to get the above video of the shooting deemed inadmissible in court.

Comins now claims [the video](#) is “unreliable,” and that it is impossible to “authenticate” whether or not the video is real.

<http://cominsvanvoorhis.wordpress.com/2010/11/15/shooter-is-attempting-to-prevent-jur...> 9/14/2011

This stunt is merely the latest in a long string of disingenuous maneuvers from the millionaire dog shooter.



Above is a list of lies and questionable claims dog shooter Chris Comins made before he knew the YouTube video existed. If the video is deemed inadmissible in court, then all of these dubious claims shall be back on the table.

A hearing is scheduled for Friday December 17, 2010, at 9:30 am, at which time Judge Bob LeBlanc will decide whether or not to allow the prosecutor to use this video as part of their evidence.

The official entry on the docket reads as follows:

12/17/2010	Hearing (9:30 AM) (Judicial Officer LeBlanc, Bob) <i>Motion in Limine to Preclude Admission of You-Tube Video &amp; Audio Excerpt Due to Lack of Proper Authentication &amp; Lack of Reliability</i>
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For more on this tragic story, visit [DogShooter.com](http://DogShooter.com).

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## Justice In Orlando, Florida: How It Works And For Whom

Posted by [Matthew Frederick](#) on January 21, 2011 · [2 Comments](#)

Back in 2008, a few weeks after the [Chris Comins shot Hoochie and Raley](#), I predicted that the well-connected gunman would never be punished for what he did. That prediction came true last week; and [when it did](#), I wasn't surprised or even particularly upset. I've had a long time to come to terms with [the way things work in central Florida](#).

So, what now?

Christopher Comins had an opportunity to truly put this ordeal behind him. A small part of me thought maybe he'd take that opportunity. But within a few days of the judge's [peculiar Not Guilty verdict](#) in Comins' animal cruelty trial, the dog shooter's attorneys contacted mine to schedule my deposition. That's right, he's pressing onward with his mission to silence those who disagree with his behavior.

That's when I remembered the rule I learned on the school bus back in first grade: never underestimate a bully's audacity. Comins doesn't just want to be exonerated; he wants to be able to pretend [this whole thing](#) never happened.

To that end, why shouldn't Comins keep taking the battle to court? He obviously can't win in the court of public opinion—but he [can't lose](#) in the Orange County Courthouse. In the judicial system, success hinges largely on the size of your bank account. Thus, despite two [disturbing gun incidents](#) that might have landed the ordinary citizen in jail, Comins remains virtually unscathed by justice, and still allowed to carry a firearm around on our American streets. Thus, both [legal blawgs](#) and [animal cruelty websites](#) alike have concluded "something really stinks down in Orange County." Andrea at For The Love Of The Dog Blog [declares](#)

Yeah, it's broken. The Scale of Justice is horribly off balance... It's an assembly line of delays, motions, tactics, deals, apathy, rich vs. poor, who you know, poor laws, and poor enforcement and administration of these laws.

Still, I will continue to defend myself in court against this bully for as long as he continues his attack. I have no choice. His goal is to get my blog deleted so that all record of his heinous incident is eventually

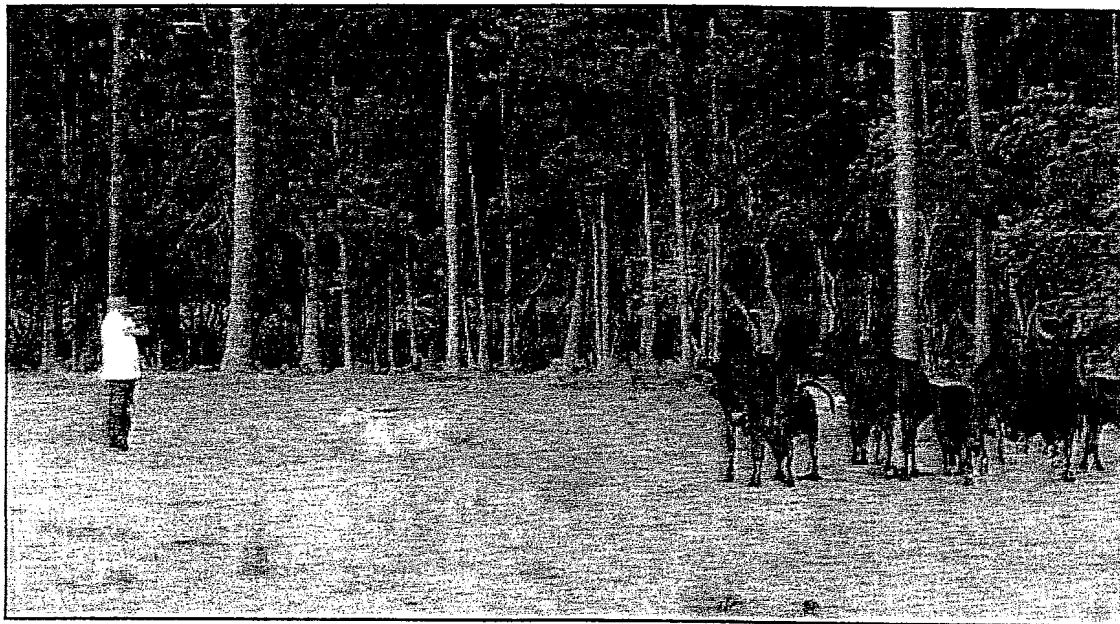
<http://cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com/2011/01/21/opinions-vary-voicing-them-is-free/> 9/14/2011

EXHIBIT

5

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erased. It will be as if it never happened—a brutal dog shooting erased from recorded memory, as it's already been disappeared from Fox News' archives. (Seriously).



Orlando businessman Chris Comins shoots at a pet dog as it darts between himself and cows he'd later claim he was trying to protect.

For me, pushing back against Comins' SLAPP lawsuit isn't just about the dogs. It's about the principle that We the People have a right to voice our opinions on this matters of public concern; that includes the 2008 Orlando dog shootings, which (as media outlets continue to remind us) drew "international attention." We had a right to disagree with Comins' decision to keep shooting the dogs as their owner begged him to stop; we had a right to sign petitions demanding justice when our elected state attorney Lawson Lamar initially punted on whether or not to charge the shooter; to send letters to our elected public officials; to peaceably assemble in protest outside the Orange County Courthouse. All of those activities are enshrined in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Not only am I unashamed at having taken part in such activities; I am proud to have been a part of them. I believe lawsuits like this one hurt democracy, as does the fact that so few defendants stand up to them. If no one ever demonstrates a willingness to fight back, then what incentive is there for Plaintiffs not to file SLAPP lawsuits in the first place? That's why I say I feel as if I have no choice but to continue fighting.

This isn't just empty rhetoric I've adopted on the fly. These are my principles, our national values. I believe in them to my very core.

What does it mean when multimillionaire businessmen have the ability to sue anybody who expresses an opinion that happens to be critical of them or their activities, without any serious possibility of being penalized if the lawsuit turns out to be baseless? What if every public figure who ever faced criticism responded by suing his critics? Would you want to live in a country where no one protested or petitioned or had a personality, out of fear that they could be sued for doing so?

Some of you may be thinking, "*If you're so confident you did nothing wrong, then what's the big deal?*"

<!--[if gte mso 9]> Normal 0 false false false EN-US X-NONE X-NONE MicrosoftInternetExplorer4 <![endif]--><!--[if gte mso 9]> <![endif]-->So far my defense has cost over fifty thousand dollars, and we haven't even gotten to depositions yet, much less the trial itself. The winnings side in a civil case doesn't automatically gets reimbursed for their expenses; that requires an even greater investment, and along with it, additional risk. That's the big deal.

You may disagree vehemently with my opinion on the dog shooting; everyone should do their own research and decide for themselves, as I did. But think long and hard about whether the fact that I voiced an opinion you disagreed with justifies a \$50,000 punishment. (Just for a frame of comparison, Comins only paid \$25,000 to the dog owner whose dogs he shot).

I am not whining. I realize that's how the simpletons among you view it; it might look that way through the wool. But I'm merely expressing my beliefs about the judicial system in states like Florida with no anti-SLAPP statute. These are my thoughts; take them for what you will. Disagree with them, offer evidence to refute them. Call me a douchebag on my own blog; I won't even delete your comments. But please, don't shut down the entire discussion.

Who would want to do that except someone with nothing whatsoever to say; someone for whom facts are incredibly embarrassing?

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[← Famous Law Pundit “Concerned” by Judge Bob LeBlanc’s Impromptu Ruling Learn Why Free Speech Is Not Yet Free →](#)

#### Comments

#### 2 Responses to “Justice In Orlando, Florida: How It Works And For Whom”

1. *Rebecca Williams* says:  
[January 21, 2011 at 8:26 pm](#)

And, what is Mr. Comins going to do about the other bloggers and other websites that tout his charms? Are they also fair game or will he try to put the fear of SLAPP into them by making you an example? (something I'm sure he feels he failed to do with the two dogs)

I don't know that this problem of connected people getting off of charges that would leave a normal, everyday person in jail is local to that area, Matthew, I think it's prevalent throughout of good country. I believe there are just as many uncaring, ignorant asses at the higher end of the pay scale as there are anywhere, they just pull a few strings and viola, TEFLON!

America is tired of it. Mr. Comins, I'm sure you read this blog. I'm here to tell you that I may be one person but you can bet if we ever meet, I will not shake your hand, I will not even acknowledge you with a reason for not doing so. I will simply turn my back on you and walk

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## American Justice: How It Works and For Whom

January 25, 2011 by [Matthew Frederick](#)



Rest assured that not everyone gets off in this country. Here are two examples are two examples of American citizens who broke the law and are being punished for their "crimes"—just in case you're feeling less than confident in our justice system in the wake of repeat gun offender Christopher Comins' recent [peculiar acquittal](#).

### [Mom Jailed for Sending Kids to Better School District](#)

From [Dr. Boyce Watkins' blog](#):

An Ohio mother of two was sentenced to 10 days in jail and placed on three years probation after sending her kids to a school district in which they did not live. Kelly Williams-Bolar was sentenced by Judge Patricia Cosgrove on Tuesday and will begin serving her sentence immediately.

The jury deliberated for seven hours and the courtroom was packed as the sentence was handed

<http://publicintellectual.wordpress.com/2011/01/25/american-justice-how-it-works-and-for-whom/>

eFiled in the Office of Clerk of Court, Orange County Florida 2011 Oct 21 04:20 PM Lydia Gardner

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down. She was convicted on two counts of tampering with court records after registering her two girls as living with their father when they actually lived with her. The family lived in the housing projects in Akron, Ohio, and the father's address was in nearby Copley Township.

Additionally, Williams-Bolar's father, Edward L. Williams, was charged with a fourth-degree felony of grand theft, in which he and his daughter are charged with defrauding the school system for two years of educational services for their girls. The court determined that sending their children to the wrong school was worth \$30,500 in tuition.

[\(Read the full story\).](#)

### Used Appliances Store Owner Who Smuggled Marijuana Thirty Years Ago Arrested Outside His Trailer

And earlier this month, Florida authorities arrested a man on thirty year old marijuana charges—a “fugitive” in rural Florida who had been “on the run” for 30 years after faking a heart attack to escape from prison.

Seventy-one-year-old Ian Jackson MacDonald was arrested outside his mobile home in Homosassa, Florida.

According U.S. Marshals senior Inspector Barry Golden, MacDonald “just let out a big sigh and said, ‘Yeah, you’re right — you got me.’”

Authorities allege that MacDonald, who went by the nickname “Big Mac,” faked a heart attack while he was in a federal prison in South Miami-Dade County in 1980. He later escaped from a hospital, the U.S. Marshals said.

MacDonald had been awaiting extradition on a Canadian warrant to face outstanding charges for allegedly smuggling 500 pounds of marijuana.





After less than a day in the hospital, he persuaded a security guard to unshackle his legs so he could take a shower, the U.S. Marshals said in a statement.

“The security guard walked to the nurse’s station, and when he returned, MacDonald was gone,” the statement said.

Canadian authorities say their arrest warrant for marijuana importation is still active, and MacDonald may still face charges in Canada.

### **Justice: How It Works, and For Whom**

Don't you feel safer knowing these “criminals” didn't get away with their illegal activities? It is okay that a man like Chris Comins can point his gun's laser at a little boy's forehead; and it is okay that after he gets a slap on the wrist for that he can open fire on two pet dogs while dozens of pedestrians are right behind them. It is okay that after both of these offenses, this powerful businessman is still allowed to carry guns around on our American streets? Why? Because when it comes to the rule-breaking nobodies—such as MacDonald, who lives in a trailer and just might have been guilty of smuggling marijuana over three decades ago; or Williams-Bolar, who is infinitely guilty of disregarding the red tape in pursuit securing the American dream for her kids—our authorities are tougher on crime than ever!

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
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### • **comins v vanvoorhis**

This pet dog is blind, after being shot in the face by a wealthy Oriando businessman.

# KILLGORE, PEARLMAN, STAMP, ORNSTEIN & SQUIRES, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

WILLIAM J. DENIUS  
CHRISTOPHER M. HARNE  
CHRISTOPHER W. HAYES<sup>1</sup>  
FRANK H. KILLGORE, JR.<sup>2</sup>  
KELLEY E. LESTER  
KAYLA M. MUDGE<sup>3</sup>

2 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE, 5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32801

[www.kpsos.com](http://www.kpsos.com)

MARK L. ORNSTEIN<sup>4</sup>  
CRAIG S. PEARLMAN<sup>4</sup>  
GREY SQUIRES-BINFORD<sup>5</sup>  
MICHAEL A. SEMANIE  
MARTIN F. STAMP<sup>5</sup>  
MELINDA F. WIMBISH

<sup>1</sup> ALSO MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA BAR  
<sup>2</sup> CERTIFIED CIRCUIT COURT MEDIATOR  
<sup>3</sup> ALSO MEMBER OF ILLINOIS BAR  
<sup>4</sup> ALSO MEMBER OF DC & WEST VIRGINIA BAR  
<sup>5</sup> ALSO MEMBER OF NEW YORK & TEXAS BAR

POST OFFICE BOX 1913  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32802-1913  
TELEPHONE: (407) 425-1020  
FAX: (407) 839-3635

OF COUNSEL  
BRENDA J. NEWMAN

Sender's email address:  
[fkillgore@kpsos.com](mailto:fkillgore@kpsos.com)

September 14, 2011

Matthew Frederick VanVoorhis  
3538 NW 46<sup>th</sup> Place  
Gainesville, FL 32605  
CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

AND

Matthew Frederick VanVoorhis  
4809 NW 18<sup>th</sup> Place  
Gainesville, FL 32605  
CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Re: Christopher M. Comins v. Matthew Frederick Vanvoorhis

Dear Mr. VanVoorhis:

While we dispute the obligation to provide you with this notice, please allow this correspondence to serve as notice pursuant to *Florida Statutes* § 770.01. Our client considers the following statements made by you on your website [www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com](http://www.cominsvvanvoorhis.wordpress.com) to be false and defamatory:

In a blog post dated May 8, 2010, in response to an entry dated February 13, 2010, you published:

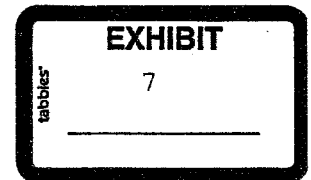
"Christopher Comins is a violent man."

In an entry dated May 19, 2010, you published:

"an armed businessman with a history of violence and a green light to fire away—or so he thought."

In an entry dated August 14, 2010, you published:

"In other words, Comins still thinks it's unfair and illegal to require citizens not to abuse or torture other people's pet dogs."



*and*

“The aim of this motion is to block the prosecution to being able to inform the jury about Comins’ violent past. In other words, Comins wants the judge to rule that the details of his violent past are inadmissible in the criminal trial. That way, the jury will be falsely led to presume Comins’ 2008 attack on Hoochie and Raley was not the first time he misused a firearm in an insane and unsafe manner. Comins would prefer to have the jury believe his 2005 assault on a child never happened. But it did happen, as numerous news outlets have reported.”

In an entry dated November 15, 2010, you stated that Mr. Comins “lied” to the police regarding the incident.

In an entry dated January 21, 2011, you published:

“We had a right to disagree with Comins’ decision to keep shooting the dogs as their owner begged him to stop.”

Additionally, our client considers the following statements made by you on your website [www.publicintellectual.wordpress.com](http://www.publicintellectual.wordpress.com) to be false and defamatory:

In an entry dated January 25, 2011, you published:

“It is okay that a man like Chris Comins can point his gun’s laser at a little boy’s forehead; and it is okay that after he gets a slap on the wrist for that he can open fire on two pet dogs while dozens of pedestrians are right behind him.”

Copies of all aforementioned entries are enclosed for your review.

Our client hereby demands an immediate retraction of these defamatory statements.

Very truly yours,



Frank H. Killgore, Jr.

FHK:jk

Encs

cc w/encs: Paul Jones  
Marc Randazza  
Client

September 19, 2011

Frank H. Killgore, Jr., Esq.  
Killgore, Pearlman, Stamp, Ornstein & Squires, P.A.  
2 South Orange Avenue, 5th Floor  
Orlando, Florida, 32801

Dear Mr. Killgore,

I am in receipt of your letter, which Doug Petro scanned and forwarded to me on the evening of September 15, 2011 at 4:55 PM. As of September 18, 2011, I have made the following edits to the posts, per your requests:

**"Christopher Comins is a violent man."**

I have edited this to state "It appears to me that Christopher Comins has a propensity to behave violently." As you know, countless other citizens reached the same conclusion about your client prior to my original blog entry.

**"an armed businessman with a history of violence and a green light to fire away—or so he thought."**

Replaced "history of violence" with "history of 'improper' gun use". As you know, your client *was* armed; and he *did*, by his own admission, believe he had the right to fire.

**"In other words, Comins still thinks it's unfair and illegal to require citizens not to abuse or torture other people's pet dogs."**

Replaced with "While I cannot know what goes through Comins' head, his behavior suggests that he has a problem with laws that impede the abuse and torture of animals."

**"The aim of this motion is to block the prosecution to being able to inform the jury about Comins' violent past. In other words, Comins wants the judge to rule that the details of his violent past are inadmissible in the criminal trial. That way, the jury will be falsely led to presume Comins' 2008 attack on Hoochie and Raley was not the first time he misused a firearm in an insane and unsafe manner. Comins would prefer to have the jury believe his 2005 assault on a child never happened. But it did happen, as numerous news outlets have reported."**

Changed to: "The aim of this motion is to block the prosecution from informing the jury about Comins' criminal record. In other words, Comins wants the judge to rule that the details of his criminal past are inadmissible in the present criminal trial. That way, the jury will be falsely led to presume Comins' 2008 attack on Hoochie and Raley was the

first time he'd ever misused a firearm in an unsafe manner. Comins would prefer to have the jury believe the 2005 incident wherein he pointed a gun at a minor never happened. But it did happen, as numerous news outlets have reported."

"Above is a list of lies and questionable claims dog shooter Chris Comins made before he knew the YouTube video existed. If the video is deemed inadmissible in court, then all of these dubious claims shall be back on the table."

Changed "lies and questionable claims" to read simply "questionable claims".

"We had a right to disagree with Comins' decision to keep shooting the dogs as their owner begged him to stop."

Changed to "We had a right to disagree with the fact that Comins continued shooting the dogs after their owner arrived and begged him to stop." We did have that right. He did in fact keep shooting after the owner arrived. As you know, not only is this abundantly clear in the video, it was also the official conclusion reached in the police investigation. Furthermore, the fact that Comins continued shooting after the dog owner arrived was reported by WFTV, Fox 35, WKMG, the Orlando Sentinel, Central Florida News 13, and the New York Post—all of which were informed by the same video footage upon which I base my opinion.

"It is okay that a man like Chris Comins can point his gun's laser at a little boy's forehead"

This statement has been removed since my deposition. There is therefore nothing to retract. If you wish, I can reintroduce the issue by making a statement acknowledging that at one point in time I made the above statement and due to subsequent information no longer feel it is accurate to classify Comins's teenaged victim as a "little boy".

I have made these retractions and changes solely as subsequent remedial measures, and out of a desire to protect myself from another frivolous lawsuit being filed by your unethical law firm. None of these changes have been made because I believe that any claims would have a "reasonable chance of success" in defamation proceedings.

Sincerely,



Matthew F. Van Voorhis

cc (via email): Marc Randazza  
Douglas Petro  
Jason Fischer