

No. 21-4755-431

ALLISON PUBLICATIONS, LLC,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
Plaintiff,	§	
v.	§	
JANE DOE,	§	DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS
Defendant.	§	
	§	431ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
	§	

**First Supplemental Declaration of Jane Doe**

My pseudonym is Jane Doe. I am the person identified as Jane Doe in *Allison Publications, LLC v Jane Doe*, No 21-4755-431 in the District Court of Denton County. In order to preserve my anonymity, I must abstain from providing my legal name, date of birth, address, or current location. I am over the age of eighteen years and have never been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude. The facts stated herein are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

I am being sued for questioning racist policies by D Magazine and its editor Tim Rogers.

I am a black woman. I am a single mother. I am an independent writer. And I am now under attack through this lawsuit by Tim Rogers, Editor, and Allison Publications, the wealthy white-owned parent company of D Magazine and People Newspapers. They filed this baseless, harassing lawsuit against me in an attempt to silence my voice because I am researching a piece about racial bias in local journalism, including at D Magazine.

My project began a few months ago. I wanted to focus on city magazines in cities across the country. These glossy publications—often found in high-end spas, hotel lobbies, and airport lounges—seem often to be written by privileged white people for privileged white people. Despite paying lip service to racial justice, these magazines often do not actually incorporate the voices and perspectives of people of color.

As a freelance writer, I view my job as to investigate rather than leap to conclusions. So, I started looking through these publications—including D Magazine—to see if I found any red flags. I found three:

Red Flag #1: Who runs D Magazine?

The editor of D Magazine, Tim Rogers, is a white man. Their Editor in Chief, Christine Allison, is white. Their President, Gillea Allison, is white. In fact, everyone on their executive team is white and it appeared to me they operate on a family patronage system—the very definition of white privilege.

Red Flag #2: What is D Magazine's business model?

D Magazine appears to operate a business model that is ethically questionable. Their Editor in Chief Christine Allison also heads up their ad agency D Custom. This seems to give them a skewed incentive to prioritize paid advertisers over editorially significant works which can have disparate impact on covering stories important to people of color.

Red Flag #3: Who is featured in D Magazine?

I looked through the “Best in Dallas” sections to get a sense of who is being featured. When I searched for best doctors, for example, I came upon the “Expert Advice” section which in fact is paid sponsored content advertising. And which doctors are featured? Well, out of the first 10 displayed, nine were white and the tenth was asian american. No black doctors were featured. Similarly, the “Expert Advice” section contained no black lawyers and no black dentists. In fact, I could not find a single black expert featured in the entire section. There are 7.5 million residents in the DFW Metroplex and not a single Black or Latinx expert could be found.

After my initial review of the facts, I concluded that D Magazine's executive team is 100% white and nearly everyone featured in their expert advice columns is white. I could have released a story right then and there. But I didn't because I wanted to delve further into the issue not just at D Magazine but at other magazines in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco where I observed some similar trends.

I wanted to hear directly from the white-owned businesses being featured as to whether they felt there was any bias shown by D Magazine in its choice of experts and whether they felt they were benefiting from institutionalized racism at the expense of Black and Latinx professionals who may have been more deserving of recognition.

Apparently in response to these inquiries, Allison Publications filed this predatory lawsuit against me. The lawsuit is filled with subtle racial insinuations, including that I am not a “legitimate” reporter. As a black female freelance writer, it appears I am presumed to be inferior and to lack credibility and independence. They say I “repeatedly contacted advertisers and others in business relationships with Allison Publications and made false allegations about Allison Publications and its advertising, journalism and business practices in an attempt to undermine those business relationships”. However, what were the “false allegations”? They did not even bother to cite a single piece of evidence. Why? Because

there is no evidence. I respectfully asked questions of those featured in D Magazine based on what I saw in the publication in order to gather comments, quotes, and perspectives about this issue of racial diversity and inclusivity.

Further they claim I “falsely, maliciously, and without privilege made false assertions of fact about Allison Publications, its management, and its economic interests in an effort to undermine Allison Publications’ business relationships.” But do they cite any evidence? Of course not since it is not true. It appears to me they are assuming because I am a black woman who is asking questions about their business practices that I am automatically a liar with bad intentions and improper motives.

For years and years, D Magazine has defended themselves when they have been sued under the banner of first amendment protections. Yet, it is obvious they don’t believe such protections apply to independent black freelance writers like me.

In the Jim Crow South, my people were publicly lynched for being perceived to have insulted a white man or for looking the wrong way at his wife. No evidence was required to initiate such proceedings since a black person was not entitled to any due process. This predatory lawsuit brings to mind such proceedings and validates my choice to remain anonymous.

I undertook this project under the nom de plume Maya Psembledon because as a freelance writer of color I lack the legal and financial resources of a large publication to defend myself should it be necessary. I remained anonymous precisely because I feared being victimized by the coterie of white privileged lawyers and journalists.

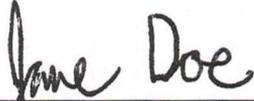
There is a long history of independent women writers taking on pseudonyms to hold power structures to account. Elizabeth Seaman, known by her pseudonym “Nellie Bly,” famously feigned insanity to expose the putrid condition of women’s insane asylums. In her earlier work, she wrote investigative pieces for the Pittsburgh Dispatch about the working conditions in women’s factories.

Like the wealthy white owners of D Magazine, the cruel factory owners scoffed at the idea of a woman who dared to question their practices and soon had Bly transferred to the paper’s gardening section. I can assure Allison Publications that the only “gardening” I am prepared to do is on my weekends. I will not shut up. I will not be silenced. I will keep questioning institutionalized racism among my fellow reporters.

I believe that D Magazine, Allison Publications, Tim Rogers, Christine Allison, and Gillea Allison have demonstrated their racism and arrogance through the filing of this predatory lawsuit. They should be ashamed of themselves.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 13 Day of August, 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Doe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jane Doe (pseudonym)  
Declarant

### Automated Certificate of eService

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Tony McDonald on behalf of Tony McDonald  
Bar No. 24083477  
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Status as of 8/16/2021 8:55 AM CST

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Associated Case Party: Jane Doe

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