

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL,

Case No.:

Plaintiff,

v.

ALLAN JACOBSON, individually, and
CANYON SPRINGS HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Christopher Marshall, by and through undersigned counsel, brings this Complaint against Defendant Allan Jacobson (“JACOBSON”) and Defendant Canyon Springs Homeowners Association, Inc. (the “HOA”), and in support thereof states as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for damages in excess of \$50,000.00, exclusive of costs, interest and attorneys’ fees, as well as a request for injunctive relief to enjoin JACOBSON, both individually and as President and Director of the HOA, from harassing and continuing to knowingly and/or recklessly making false statements defaming the character of MARSHALL.
2. Plaintiff, Christopher Marshall, is a resident of the Canyon Springs community located in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, and is also a licensed attorney and member in good standing of the Florida Bar.
3. Defendant, Allan Jacobson, is a resident of the Canyon Springs community located in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida.
4. Defendant, Canyon Springs Homeowners Association, Inc., is a Florida corporation created to manage the Canyon Springs community located in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida. The HOA is a Homeowners’ Association as defined in Fla. Stat. § 720.301(9).

5. Venue is appropriate in Palm Beach County, Florida because all parties reside in Palm Beach County, and all witnesses to statements made by JACOBSON are believed to either reside or regularly work in Palm Beach County, Florida.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

6. MARSHALL and JACOBSON are both residents of Canyon Springs and active community members of the HOA.
7. In 2021, MARSHALL met JACOBSON when they both served on the Social Committee for the Canyon Springs community.
8. In 2021, JACOBSON helped convince MARSHALL of the good he could do for the community as a Board member and offered support and counsel for MARSHALL to run for election to the Board.
9. MARSHALL was elected to the HOA's Board of Directors in December 2021. During the campaign, MARSHALL made his profession as an attorney known to the community as well as his desire to make the management of the community more transparent and help hold Directors accountable for their actions in both their fiduciary responsibilities and their representation of the community.
10. In 2023, the Board of Directors created a Special Projects Committee for the purpose of determining items of need in the community. MARSHALL was named the committee's liaison. The committee chose the playgrounds and the splashpad as areas of need.
11. MARSHALL, in his capacity as a Director of Canyon Springs and liaison of the Special Projects Committee, began reaching out to vendors to replace the community splashpad and playground equipment. JACOBSON was a member of the Special Projects Committee, as was Kim Devito, a current Director of the Board.
12. In October 2023, MARSHALL set up a meeting with a vendor to address the splashpad. JACOBSON was invited to attend meetings with the vendor and offered opinions on the splashpad design process.

13. In April 2024, after months of design discussions, the project began to obtain quotes. MARSHALL and JACOBSON included Gil Harris, another resident of the Canyon Springs community, into the committee to help review quotes, budgets and contracts. MARSHALL, JACOBSON and Gil Harris exchanged many emails regarding the quotes as well as having in-person meetings, one of which was in JACOBSON's home.
14. In May 2024, MARSHALL presented the Special Projects Committee Recommendations for the Playgrounds and Splashpads including an overview of all design and pricing options. The Board of Directors approved the project and directed the committee members to review the terms of the contract and make recommendations.
15. On or about June 10, 2024, MARSHALL, JACOBSON, and Gil Harris met in JACOBSON's home to review all financials and make recommendations to the terms of the contract with the vendor. Those revisions were accepted by the vendor and the Board of Directors executed the contract.
16. In September 2025, after the resignation of three board members, MARSHALL took on the role of President and along with Director Michele Buscemi, appointed JACOBSON and Chad Shuck ("SHUCK") to the Board of Directors prior to the regularly-scheduled December 2025 election.
17. At no time during the playground and splashpad projects did MARSHALL hide any information to which the Board or the HOA community were entitled, nor did he prevent anyone from accessing such information.
18. As of December 2025, the playground project and the splashpad project were completed. However, Directors JACOBSON and SHUCK had issues with the project design.
19. Contemporaneously, MARSHALL made known his intention not to run for the December 2025 election and communicated his commitment to training and developing JACOBSON and SHUCK as Directors.
20. After voicing his intention to step down, Directors JACOBSON and SHUCK specifically requested MARSHALL run for re-election and continue to serve the community as President of the Board.

21. After many conversations with the property managers and Directors, including JACOBSON and SHUCK, MARSHALL reluctantly agreed to run for re-election to the Board and continue to serve as President.
22. On December 11, 2025, MARSHALL was re-elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of the community. After the annual meeting, the board moved to the organizational meeting.
23. During the organizational meeting, JACOBSON became president following a series of back-room discussions with residents of the community and other candidates to the election. MARSHALL, confused by this change, requested a recess and privately spoke with JACOBSON and SHUCK.
24. During the conversation, in the presence of SHUCK, JACOBSON expressed his disagreement with some of the decisions made by MARSHALL and implied that Marshall was corrupt because he hid information about the splashpad. Further, JACOBSON compared MARSHALL to previous Board members that JACOBSON has publicly called corrupt. MARSHALL denied the accusation and reminded JACOBSON that he was involved in every step of the splashpad project. MARSHALL further asked why JACOBSON did not discuss this issue beforehand instead of allowing MARSHALL to go through the process of campaigning for an office and position due in large part to JACOBSON and SHUCK's request, to which JACOBSON replied only that he discussed it with multiple residents.
25. While JACOBSON admitted to having these conversations with SHUCK, the clear implication of JACOBSON's statement is that JACOBSON accused MARSHALL of "corruption" and "hiding" things to multiple residents.
26. MARSHALL values his reputation, works hard to maintain it, and relies upon it to effectively perform his duties as an attorney.
27. The allegations of corruption and behind the scenes manipulation of events crushed MARSHALL. As a direct result of JACOBSON and SHUCK's actions, MARSHALL resigned from the Board the very same night he was re-elected for a third term.

28. JACOBSON's actions and allegations took a heavy toll on MARSHALL's reputation within his community and negatively impacted his mental and emotional well-being.
29. On Friday, December 26, 2025, MARSHALL received a telephone call from Xavier Jones ("JONES"), of Ameriscape, Inc., and Labounty Pools, Inc., a vendor used by Canyon Springs for community landscaping and pool maintenance.
30. JONES indicated that he was on Canyon Springs property when he saw JACOBSON observing mulch being laid in the community areas by another landscaping vendor, Cayco Landscaping.
31. JACOBSON told JONES that MARSHALL was no longer on the Board of Directors. When asked why, JACOBSON replied that MARSHALL is no longer on the board because "he was hiding things on the splashpad project."
32. This statement made by JACOBSON is false but was presented as true to JONES, and overheard by members of Cayco Landscaping.
33. The statement was made by JACOBSON at a time when MARSHALL was no longer a member of the Board or a candidate for election.
34. The statement that MARSHALL was "hiding things" while in the office of director and president of Canyon Springs HOA, implies that MARSHALL violated his fiduciary duties as a director and asserts his conduct was one involving moral turpitude, which taken a face value injures his personal reputation, his reputation as a member of the community and his reputation as an attorney and member of the Florida Bar.
35. These actions and statements by JACOBSON damaged MARSHALL's professional and personal reputation and has damaged his mental and emotional well-being.

COUNT I – DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER – SLANDER (JACOBSON AND HOA)

Plaintiff restates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 35 above, and further states:

36. This is an action for defamation of character - slander.

37. The statements made by JACOBSON, including any statements made prior to the December 11, 2025 election, those made after the election, and those made while serving as President of the Board of Directors of the HOA, contained false and defamatory statements concerning MARSHALL.
38. The aforementioned statements were published to third parties – specifically, to SHUCK, JONES, employees of Cayco Landscaping, and to members of the Canyon Springs community.
39. The statements made by JACOBSON were intended as statements of fact and were false.
40. The statements were made by JACOBSON knowing that they were false or with reckless disregard for the truth.
41. The statements were made by JACOBSON both in his individual capacity and in his capacity as President of the Board of the HOA.
42. The HOA is liable for the misconduct of its Board members, including JACOBSON.
43. The statements made by JACOBSON exposed MARSHALL to distrust and ridicule within the HOA community.
44. As a direct and natural consequence of the false statements, MARSHALL has suffered injury to his reputation and good name as well as mental anguish and other damages to his mental health and well-being.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, ALLAN JACOBSON and CANYON SPRINGS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., for damages, costs, and any other relief the Court deems just and proper, as well as an injunction preventing DEFENDANTS from making any further defamatory statements about Plaintiff. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

COUNT II – DEFAMATION PER SE (JACOBSON AND HOA)

Plaintiff restates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 35 above, and further states:

45. This is an action for defamation of character per se – slander.

46. The statements made by JACOBSON, including any statements made prior to the December 11, 2025 election, those made after the election, and those made while serving as President of the Board of Directors of the HOA, contained false and defamatory statements concerning MARSHALL that accused him of violating his legal duties to the Canyon Springs community as Director.
47. The aforementioned statements were published to third parties – specifically, to SHUCK, JONES, employees of Cayco Landscaping, and to members of the Canyon Springs community.
48. The statements made by JACOBSON were intended as statements of fact and were false.
49. The statements were made by JACOBSON knowing that they were false or with reckless disregard for the truth.
50. The statements were made by JACOBSON both in his individual capacity and in his capacity as President of the Board of the HOA.
51. The HOA is liable for the misconduct of its Board members, including JACOBSON.
52. The statements made by JACOBSON exposed MARSHALL to distrust and ridicule within the HOA community.
53. As a direct and natural consequence of the false statements, MARSHALL has suffered injury to his reputation and good name as well as mental anguish and other damages to his mental health and well-being.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, ALLAN JACOBSON and CANYON SPRINGS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., for damages, costs, and any other relief the Court deems just and proper, as well as an injunction preventing DEFENDANTS from making any further defamatory statements about Plaintiff. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

COUNT III – INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
(JACOBSON AND HOA)

Plaintiff restates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 35 above, and further states:

54. This is an action for Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress.

55. The statements made by JACOBSON, including any statements made prior to the December 11, 2025 election, those made after the election, and those made while serving as President of the Board of Directors of the HOA, contained false and defamatory statements concerning MARSHALL.
56. The statements were made by JACOBSON knowing that they were false or with reckless disregard for the truth.
57. The statements were made by JACOBSON both in his individual capacity and in his capacity as President of the Board of the HOA.
58. The statements followed a concerted effort by both JACOBSON and SHUCK, while serving as Directors of the HOA, to convince MARSHALL to run for re-election to the Board with the express purpose that he would continue to serve as President – an outcome both JACOBSON and SHUCK indicated they desired.
59. However, at the same time they were pressuring MARSHALL to seek re-election, JACOBSON and SHUCK were plotting a coup to install JACOBSON as President and, concurrently, to publicly humiliate MARSHALL and cause him mental and emotional harm.
60. Following the December 11, 2025 election, JACOBSON and SHUCK set their plot in motion, blindsiding MARSHALL.
61. After having JACOBSON installed as President of the HOA, JACOBSON made defamatory statements about MARSHALL in the presence of SHUCK.
62. After the plot had succeeded, JACOBSON apparently felt he should continue his assault on MARSHALL's good name by accusing MARSHALL of corruption and moral turpitude to JONES, a Canyon Springs vendor.
63. By convincing MARSHALL to run for re-election, only to unleash a scheme for JACOBSON to claim the Presidency for himself and to humiliate MARSHALL with false accusations of corruption and moral turpitude, JACOBSON and SHUCK intentionally caused MARSHALL to suffer embarrassment and severe emotional distress.

64. The HOA is liable for the misconduct of its Board members, including JACOBSON and SHUCK.

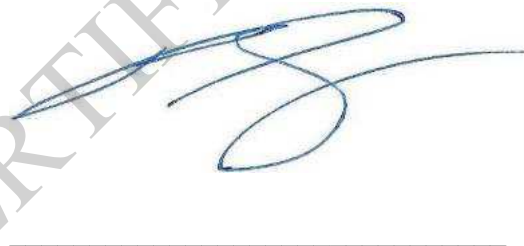
65. As a direct and natural consequence of JACOBSON's outrageous actions, both individually and while serving as a member of the Board, MARSHALL has suffered severe emotional distress.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, ALLAN JACOBSON and CANYON SPRINGS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., for damages, costs, and any other relief the Court deems just and proper, as well as an injunction preventing DEFENDANTS from making any further defamatory statements about Plaintiff. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury of all issues so triable.

Respectfully Submitted,



PAUL M. EZA, ESQ.
Attorney for the Plaintiff
Fl. Bar No. 68708
8655 Daystar Ridge Pt.
Boynton Beach, FL 33473
pmeappeals@gmail.com
904-873-9308
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