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VIA E-MAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

Michael J. Avenatti, Esq. 520 Newport Center Drive Suite 1400 Newport Beach, CA 926600 mavenatti@eaganavenatti.com

Re: Cohen v. BuzzFeed, Inc., Ben Smith, Ken Bensinger, Miriam Elder, and Mark Schoofs (N.Y. Sup. Ct. No. 150231/2018)

Dear Mr. Avenatti:

This firm is counsel to defendants BuzzFeed, Inc. ("BuzzFeed"), Ben Smith, Ken Bensinger, Miriam Elder, and Mark Schoofs (together, "Defendants") in the above-referenced action filed by Michael Cohen, an attorney for President Donald J. Trump (the "Action"). We write to inform you that as a result of Mr. Cohen's lawsuit, your client, Stephanie Clifford (a/k/a Stormy Daniels), is likely in possession of documents that are potentially relevant to the Action, and we therefore request that Ms. Clifford preserve them.

In his Complaint (attached here), Mr. Cohen asserts a claim for defamation based on an article published by Defendant BuzzFeed in January 2017 entitled "These Reports Allege Trump Has Deep Ties to Russia" (the "Article"). The Article contained an embedded document file containing a 35-page collection of memoranda that primarily discuss Russian efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, including alleged ties between Russia and President Trump's campaign (the "Dossier"). The memoranda in the Dossier contain certain references to Mr. Cohen that Mr. Cohen alleges falsely imply that he played a role in facilitating Russian interference in the election. Compl. ¶¶ 25-26.

Mr. Cohen's role in President Trump's 2016 campaign, including but not limited to any payments he made or facilitated to third parties during or in connection with the campaign, is therefore directly relevant to the Action. Therefore, we ask that Ms. Clifford preserve any documents or electronically stored information ("ESI") about:

1. Any and all payments made by Mr. Cohen or Essential Consultants, LLC to Ms. Clifford, including but not limited to documents that would show the means by which the funds were transferred and/or the payments were made;

- 2. Any and all documents related in any way to Ms. Clifford's interactions with Mr. Cohen and/or Essential Consultants LLC, including documents, emails, call logs, text messages or electronic information of any kind that demonstrate how contact was first made between Ms. Clifford or individuals acting on her behalf, on the one hand, and Mr. Cohen, Essential Consultants LLC, and/or individuals or entities acting on their behalf, on the other;
- 3. Any and all communications between Ms. Clifford or any person acting on her behalf, on the one hand, and Mr. Cohen, Essential Consultants LLC, and/or individuals or entities acting on their behalf, on the other, regarding payments made to Ms. Clifford;
- 4. Any and all documents that identify any other individual or entity acting in concert with or on behalf of Mr. Cohen and/or Essential Consultants LLC; and
- 5. Any and all documents or communications about any relationship and/or sexual encounter(s) Ms. Clifford had, and/or was alleged to have had, with President Trump.

This includes without limitation all relevant ESI (including but not limited to e-mail), banking records, Word documents, spreadsheets, PDFs, reports, articles, books, memos, letters, calendar entries, handwritten notes, text messages, chats, phone messages, phone logs, audio recordings, or any other type of document or communication, final or draft, in either written or electronic format.

Should you have any questions regarding this notice, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Katherine M. Bolger

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cc: David M. Schwartz, Esq.

Attorney for Plaintiff Michael Cohen