

2 **DECLARATION OF MELANIE BROWN**

3 I, MELANIE BROWN, declare as follows:

4 1. I am the Petitioner in this action. I have firsthand, personal knowledge of the facts
5 contained in this declaration, and if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify hereto
6 under oath.

7 2. Except as to such facts as stated from my information and belief, which I believe to
8 be true, the following facts are stated from my personal knowledge and if called upon herein to testify,
9 I would and could do so competently thereto under oath. I offer this declaration in lieu of personal
10 testimony pursuant to §§2009 and 2015.5 of the *Code of Civil Procedure*, Rule 1225 of the *California*
11 *Rules of Court; Reifler vs. Superior* (1974) 39 Cal.App.3d 479 and *Marriage of Stevenot* (1984) 154
12 Cal.App.2d 1051.

13 3. I submit this Declaration in support of my *ex parte* Request for an order requiring
14 Respondent for return of property, et al.

15 4. I am a recording artist, actress, and television host. In the 1990s, I was a member of
16 the Spice Girls, and later went on to become a solo recording artist. In 2007, I was runner-up on the
17 fifth season of *Dancing with the Stars*, and since then, I have worked steadily hosting a variety of
18 television shows both in America and abroad. I was a judge on the United Kingdom and Australian
19 versions of *X Factor*, the co-host for *Dancing with the Stars Australia*, a coach on *The Voice Kids* in
20 Australia, and currently, I am a judge on *America's Got Talent*.

21 5. Respondent and I were married on June 6, 2007, in Las Vegas, Nevada, after a very
22 brief (2 month) courtship. We separated on December 28, 2016. We have one (1) daughter together,
23 Madison Belafonte Brown, (currently age 5), and I have two (2) other children, who are not the issue
24 of Respondent.

25 6. Lorraine Gilles was hired by Respondent in 2010 as a nanny for my children. I
26 reluctantly agreed to the employment.

27 7. In or about May of 2014, I learned that Lorraine Gilles was pregnant with
28 Respondent's child. Thereafter, I attempted to fire Ms. Gilles, but Respondent forced me to re-hire

Ms. Gilles under the threat that he would destroy me and my career by releasing damaging videos, and under the threat that he would have Ms. Gilles make false accusations against me as well.

8. I am making this ex parte request premised upon Respondent’s repeated threats throughout our marriage that he would release sexually explicit tapes of me such that it would ruin my career. He has used this as a means to coerce me into remaining in the relationship. I have lived the past decade in fear that he would release intimate videos of me that would cause me untold embarrassment and damage to my reputation and professional career. He has admitted to me that our former nanny, Lorraine Gilles, maintains possession and control over the media such that I could never have anyone locate the tapes so as to obtain and destroy the same.

9. He would regularly hold up his phone to me and point to a video file and say, “It’s just one click away,” meaning that with one click he could send out a video and my career would be over.

10. On Monday, April 3, 2017, the Honorable Thomas Trent Lewis issued Temporary Domestic Violence Restraining Orders against Respondent protecting myself and my children. A true and correct copy of the Court’s April 3, 2017 Temporary Restraining Orders are attached hereto as **Exhibit “A.”**

11. As part and parcel of the Restraining Orders, my husband was Ordered out of the family residence, and I was awarded exclusive use and possession of the same. See **Exhibit “A.”**

12. On April 3, 2017, Respondent vacated the family residence with at least two (2) large suitcases. When I finally re-entered the family residence, I discovered that Respondent’s safe, which always remained locked during our marriage, was open and empty. Further, upon an inspection and walk-through of the family residence, I could not locate any videos and/or digital media pertaining to my request, as detailed in Paragraph 3 hereinabove.

13. On April 4, 2017, notwithstanding the Court’s April 3, 2017 Temporary Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Respondent posted a message to the Instagram page of our mutual friend, wherein he stated, “Hey call me I think Mel leaked that story...it’s important[.]” I believe the “story” in question involves media speculation that Respondent surreptitiously videotaped our mutual friend and me in a private setting. Our mutual friend captured a screen shot of Respondent’s message

before Respondent subsequently deleted it, and provided me with same. A true and correct copy of the Instagram message is attached hereto as **Exhibit "B."**

14. On April 5, 2017, I learned by way of media that Respondent issued a media statement alluding to the very threats that he frequently intimated to me during our marriage. I believe that Respondent is preparing to release compromising videos of myself and others in an act of retaliation and desperation. To wit, Respondent's media statement contained the following veiled warning:

"It's a shame that Ms. Brown elected not to proceed in a respectful and amicable fashion in this very private matter...it will become clear that this...was nothing more than a smear campaign intended to cover up Ms. Brown's own conduct during the marriage in light of her involvement with a family television show..."

A true and correct copy of the TMZ article detailing Respondent's media statement, as described hereinabove, is attached hereto as **Exhibit "C."**

15. I am in fear that Respondent will make good on his threats and that he is preparing to release the aforementioned videos to irreparably harm me.

STORAGE FACILITY

16. When I was last in my garage prior to separation, there were some twelve to fifteen large storage boxes filled with my Spice Girl memorabilia.

17. Further, there had been other property and possessions of mine contained within the house that had been brought over from England, such as family photos, including photos of my recently deceased father.

18. Respondent informed my security people after I moved out (but while he was still living in the home) that he had unilaterally moved some of my belongings to a storage facility controlled by our former nanny, Lorraine Gilles.

19. Since receiving said information from my security personnel, I have routinely asked Lorraine for the keys and the location of the storage facility, and she has refused to respond. I have also asked my accountants to ask Lorraine for the keys, location and access, but she has been

unresponsive to those individuals as well.

20. Upon entering the residence on April 3rd, I found that many of my possessions, both previously inside the garage and inside the residence, had been taken without either my knowledge or consent including, but not limited to, entertainment memorabilia I had gathered throughout the course of my 20-plus year career. These possessions have sentimental value to me, and they are worth monetary value.

21. My accountants have located a public storage facility purchased by Stephen Belafonte, using our community credit card. Upon contacting the storage facility my accountants learned that the account is in Respondent's name but that the email address and telephone number associated with the account is in Lorraine Gilles' name. A true and correct copy of the document reflecting that the public storage username is "lorrainegilles" with a password of XXX-9162, with sensitive information redacted, is attached hereto as **Exhibit "D."**

22. **Respondent was served with the Temporary Restraining Orders on April 3, 2017. In attempting to access the storage account information, I learned that as of April 4th, a day after Respondent being served with the DV, the password on the storage facility account no longer works.** A true and correct copy of Respondent's Notice and Acknowledgment of Receipt of the Temporary Domestic Violence Restraining Orders is attached hereto as **Exhibit "E."**

23. **I believe that Lorraine Gilles and Respondent are acting in concert to deprive me of my personal belongings by either destroying or disseminating said belongings.**

24. **On April 4, 2017, I directed my accountant to email Lorraine Gilles requesting her to provide the storage and contact information. No response was received. See Exhibit "G."**

25. **As for the electronic media, which Respondent has repeatedly referenced in his threats to destroy my reputation and career, I am fearful that Respondent and/or Lorraine Gilles, either acting in concert with Respondent and/or at his direction, will disseminate the media in an attempt to retaliate for my filing a request for Domestic Violence Restraining Orders.**

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2 26. The fact that Ms. Gilles is unwilling to respond to my representatives so as to provide
3 information as to the location of my personal property is distressing. Knowing of how vindictive and
4 retaliatory Respondent can be, I am in fear that I will forever lose my personal photographs,
5 memorabilia and other property that is of sentimental value to me.

6 27. Accordingly, I am requesting that the Court grant the relief requested herein, and deny
7 Respondent the ability to commit further abuse by permanently depriving me of my personal property
8 and disseminating electronic media that serves only to embarrass and degrade me, and by proxy, our
9 daughter.

10
11 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
12 is true and correct.

13 Executed this 6th day of April, 2017 at Los Angeles, California.

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MELANIE BROWN