

1 DIINELE DINAALI  
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3 Torrance, CA 90504  
4 (310) 989-9559  
5 deenna@my.email

6 PLAINTIFF IN PRO PER

7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
8 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT

9 DIINELE DINAALI, an individual,  
10 Plaintiff,

11 vs.

12 SHEIN DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION, a  
13 Delaware corporation;  
14 SPEEDX, a New York corporation;  
15 BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK,  
16 LLP, a Colorado corporation;  
17 IDENTITY DIGITAL INC., a Washington  
18 corporation;  
19 CHRIS XU, an individual;  
20 RICHARD BENSON, an individual;  
21 ERIC D WALTHER, an individual;  
22 MADYSON B BATHKE; an individual;  
23 JENNIFER SWALLOW, an individual;  
24 AKRAM J ATALLAH, an individual;  
25 CAMERON WALKER, an individual;  
26 DAVE MCBREEN, an individual;  
27 DOES 1-20;  
28 ROE CORPORATIONS 1-10, inclusive;  
Defendants.

Case No.: 25STCV07490  
Dept.: 57  
[Hon. Michael Small]

**STATEMENT OF DISQUALIFICATION OF HON.  
MICHAEL SMALL FOR CAUSE (Cal. Code Civ. Proc.  
§ 170.1)**

Complaint Filed: March 17, 2025  
Trial Date: Not Set

1 Plaintiff in Pro Per DIINELE DINAALI (“Plaintiff”), hereby submits this verified Statement of  
2 Disqualification pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 170.1(a)(6)(A)(iii), seeking the  
3 disqualification of the Honorable Michael Small, the judicial officer currently assigned to this  
4 matter.

5 **I. LEGAL BASIS FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

6 Under Code of Civil Procedure § 170.1(a)(6)(A)(iii), a judge shall be disqualified if:  
7 “A person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt that the judge would be able to  
8 be impartial.”

9 Disqualification is required not only for actual bias but for the appearance of bias, including  
10 conduct that causes a reasonable person to question the judge’s neutrality or fairness.

11 Under California Code of Civil Procedure § 170.1(a)(6)(A)(iii): *“A judge shall be disqualified  
12 if... a person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt that the judge would be able to  
13 be impartial.”*

14 “Due process guarantees apply equally to all litigants, including those representing  
15 themselves. Courts have recognized that self-represented parties are especially susceptible to  
16 unequal treatment, and judicial bias or the appearance of bias undermines both justice and public  
17 confidence in the legal system”. *Catchpole v. Brannon* (1995) 36 Cal.App.4th 237, 245.

18 “Due process requires a fair trial in a fair tribunal... before a judge with no actual bias  
19 against the defendant or interest in the outcome of the case.” *People v. Wharton* (1991) 53 Cal.3d  
20 522, 566.

21 “The appearance of bias may be as damaging to the public’s confidence in the judicial  
22 system as actual bias.” *Catchpole v. Brannon* (1995) 36 Cal.App.4th 237.

23 **II. GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

24 Plaintiff respectfully asserts that the judge’s conduct in this case gives rise to an  
25 appearance of bias and a reasonable doubt as to the judge’s ability to fairly preside over the  
26 matter. The following facts are submitted in support:

27 On May 22, 2025, Plaintiff appeared at a scheduled hearing for a Preliminary Injunction  
28 against defendants and their attorneys of record.

1 The evening prior, Plaintiff filed a supplemental memorandum in support of his motion for  
2 sanctions against defendants and their attorneys of record currently set for October 9, 2025.

3 In this filing, Plaintiff advised the Court of Plaintiff's intent to pursue criminal conspiracy  
4 and aiding and abetting charges against defendants and its counsel, as well as Honorable Stephen  
5 I. Goorvitch, the judge of Writs and Receivers department 82 who made a frivolous ruling  
6 regarding Plaintiff's ex parte application for restraining order against parties to the case who had  
7 maliciously caused the take-down of Plaintiff's business websites in retaliation for protest websites  
8 Plaintiff had created and mailed to defendants' counsel.

9 It appears that before the set hearing, the court became aware of this filing as well as other  
10 filings by Plaintiff the day prior.

11 This Honorable Court started the proceedings which was scheduled for 8:30 am late at  
12 around 8:50 am.

13 Counsel for defendants, Morgan E Pietz, who appeared remotely. clocked in at around 8:36  
14 am.

15 This Court, called Plaintiff's case, which was thirteenth on the calendar, without the  
16 presence of a court reporter and dismissed the motion without prejudice on fabricated grounds.

17 This Court thereafter posted a frivolous tentative ruling which neither Plaintiff or Pietz had  
18 been aware of, and an equally frivolous minute order after the hearing.

19 As it was very clear that there was a collusion between the Court and Pietz, Plaintiff sent an  
20 email to Pietz at around 1:39 pm that Plaintiff intended to add Judges Small and Goorvitch to a list  
21 of judicial officers whom Plaintiff intended to seek criminal and administrative sanctions against.

22 Plaintiff also indicated that Judge Goorvitch's ex parte ruling was about to become the  
23 subject of a writ of mandate.

24 Plaintiff's email tracking system indicates that Pietz opened this email at 1:57 pm.

25 Plaintiff thereafter became that a Nunc Pro Tunc Order had been posted stating: "It  
26 appearing to the Court that through inadvertence and/or clerical error, the minute order of  
27 05/22/2025 in the above-entitled action does not properly reflect the Court's order. At the  
28 direction of the Judicial Officer, said minute order is corrected nunc pro tunc as of 05/22/2025".

1 It is very clear that the correction was made after ex parte communication between the  
2 Court and Pietz.

3 On May 22, 2025, Plaintiff filed a notice of appeal.

4 In absence of a valid reporter's transcript, Plaintiff intends to file a Settled Statement.

5 As Plaintiff is actively seeking disbarment and criminal prosecution of the judicial officers  
6 involved, the Court should immediately recuse itself from the case and refer the matter to Chief  
7 Judge for appointment of another judge to the case.

8 Respectfully submitted on May 23, 2025  
9

10  
11 /s/ DIINELE DINAALI

12  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Plaintiff in Pro Per Diinele Dinaali

15 **III. Declaration**

16 I, Diinele Dinaali, declare as follows:

- 17 1. I am the Plaintiff in Pro Per in the above-entitled action.
- 18 2. I make this declaration in support of my Statement of disqualification of Hon.  
19 Michael Small for Cause.
- 20 3. I have full personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and I can testify  
21 competently.
- 22 4. I believe Hon. Small is biased towards me and in collusion with opposing party.

23 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
24 foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 23, 2025 at Torrance.

25 /s/ DIINELE DINAALI

26  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Plaintiff in Pro Per Diinele Dinaali

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 I, Ali Fardi, am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to this action. On May 23,  
3 2025, I served the document listed below:

4 **STATEMENT OF DISQUALIFICATION OF HON. MICHAEL SMALL FOR CAUSE (Cal. Code Civ. Proc. §**  
5 **170.1)**

6  
7 via email, to the following addresses:

8 **1- Morgan E Pietz**

9 morgan@pstrials.com

10 **2- Shein Distribution Corporation**

11 us\_legal@sheingroup.com

12 legal@shein.com

13 **3- Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP**

14 Norman Brownstein: nbrownstein@bhfs.com

15 Richard Benson: rbenenson@bhfs.com

16 Eric Walther: ewalther@bhfs.com

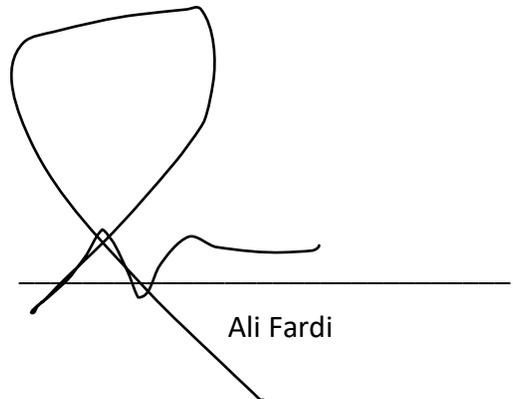
17 Madyson Bathke: mbathke@bhfs.com

18 **4- Identity Digital Inc.**

19 support@identity.digital

20 I declare under the penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true.

21  
22 DATE: May 23, 2025

23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28   
Ali Fardi