

1 David E. Bunim (SBN 44185)
2 HAAS & NAJARIAN, LLP
3 58 Maiden Lane, Second Floor
4 San Francisco, CA 94108
5 Telephone: 415.788.6330
6 Facsimile: 415.391.0555

7
8 Attorneys for Respondent
9 Bill Criswell

10
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 KRISTIN M. PERRY, et al.,
14 Plaintiffs,
15 vs.
16 ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, et al.,
17 Defendants.

Case No. 09-CV-2292 VRW

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION OF
BILL CRISWELL TO QUASH SUBPOENA
TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY**

Date: February 11, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Courtroom 6, 17th Floor, San Francisco,
CA 94102

18 TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

19 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on February 11, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.,¹ or as soon thereafter as
20 the matter can be heard, in the District Court for the Northern District of California, 450 Golden
21 Gate Avenue, Courtroom 6, 17th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102, Bill Criswell will and hereby does
22 move this Court, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45(c), to quash the subpoena issued by
23 Plaintiffs' counsel or, in the alternative, for a protective order to prevent the disclosure of Mr.
24 Criswell's personal and/or private information. This motion is made on the grounds that the
subpoena is unduly burdensome and has been served solely for the purpose of harassment.

25 This motion is based on this Notice, the points and authorities set forth below, the supporting
26 declarations and exhibits filed herewith, all other pleadings and records on file in this action, and

27
28 ¹ Mr. Criswell's Motion for an Order Shortening Time is forthcoming.

1 upon such other additional arguments and evidence, both written and oral, as may be presented at or
2 before the time of the hearing.

3 DATED: January 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted:

4 HAAS & NAJARIAN, LLP

5
6 By: _____ /s/
7 David E. Bunim
8 Attorneys for Respondent
9 Bill Criswell

10 Bill Criswell hereby submits his Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support of his
11 Motion to Quash, stating as follows:

12 **I.**

13 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

14 On May 9, 2009, Plaintiffs filed the instant action to challenge Proposition 8, seeking *inter*
15 *alia* a declaration that the provision is unconstitutional under the Due Process and Equal Protection
16 Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. “The intent or purpose of
17 Prop[osition] 8 is central to the litigation” and much of the discovery has focused on discerning
18 “whether Proposition 8 was passed with discriminatory intent and whether any claimed state interest
19 in fact supports Prop[osition] 8.” Doc #214 at 3-4. During the course of discovery, Plaintiffs’
20 counsel issued a subpoena for documents to Marketing Communications Services, Inc. (“MCSI”), a
21 third party vendor hired by Schubert Flint Public Affairs (“SFPA”), the public affairs firm that
22 managed the Yes on 8 campaign. Criswell Decl. ¶ 2. Bill Criswell is MCSI’s President, and has
23 now been subpoenaed to testify at trial in this matter. Criswell Decl. ¶ 2, 3.

24 MCSI helped produce television and radio commercials for broadcast to television and radio
25 stations in California, and made media buys for the Yes on 8 campaign. Criswell Decl. ¶ 4. Frank
26 Schubert (of SFPA) served as the creative director for all the work MCSI completed, and SFPA
27 supplied all casting and onscreen directions as well as scripts for the actors. Criswell Decl. ¶ 4.
28 MCSI did not participate in conceptualizing or devising the advertising campaign, and merely

1 implemented the portion of the advertising delegated to it by SFPA and did so under its direction.
 2 Criswell Decl. ¶ 5. At no time did MCSI develop or assist in the development of the message(s) or
 3 theme(s) conveyed by the campaign to the voting populace. Criswell Decl. ¶ 5. Further, MCSI had
 4 no direct interaction with the campaign staff. Criswell Decl. ¶ 5.

5 In their subpoena, Plaintiffs sought two categories of documents: 1) documents that reflected
 6 communications relating to Proposition 8 between MCSI and those who had a role in managing or
 7 directing ProtectMarriage.com or the Yes on 8 campaign, or with those who provided advice,
 8 counseling or services with respect to efforts to encourage persons to vote for Proposition 8; and 2)
 9 documents that were distributed to voters or potential voters in coordination with Protect Marriage
 10 regarding Proposition 8. *See* Subpoena to Produce Documents, Information, or Objects, attached as
 11 Exhibit 1 to Criswell Decl. & Criswell Decl. ¶ 6. Plaintiffs scheduled production to occur on
 12 November 9, 2009; on November 6, 2009, MCSI objected to the subpoena in its entirety and
 13 produced no documents pursuant thereto.² Criswell Decl. ¶ 7. Plaintiffs made no effort to compel
 14 MCSI to produce documents, and MCSI heard nothing from Plaintiffs' counsel thereafter. Criswell
 15 Decl. ¶ 7.

16 As many familiar with this litigation are aware, the issue of same sex marriage is one that has
 17 sparked strong feelings on both sides of the issue, and the rancor has spilled over to affect those only
 18 tangentially involved in the campaign. As a result MCSI's work with those on one side of the issue,
 19 its employees and subcontractors have been subjected to constant harassment, threats of violence,
 20 and implicit death threats have been made against Mr. Criswell personally. Criswell Decl. ¶ 8. Mr.
 21 Criswell has received numerous calls and emails from life insurance agents responding to inquiries
 22 purportedly made by Mr. Criswell, but in fact were made by those angry with Mr. Criswell with the
 23 aim of causing Mr. Criswell to fear for his life. Criswell Decl. ¶ 8. MCSI has been forced to hire
 24 security guards, change its address, screen its telephone calls and take down its website (in its
 25 previous form). Criswell Decl. ¶ 9. Many days they were simply unable to answer their phone due
 26

27 ² MCSI, had, however, previously provided to SFPA the television production work in
 28 the form of DVDs and radio production work in the form of CDs, all of which have ostensibly been
 produced heretofore in this litigation. Criswell Decl. ¶ 7.

1 to the large volume of threats. Criswell Decl. ¶ 9.

2 **II.**

3 **ARGUMENT**

4 **A. THE SUBPOENA SUBJECTS MR. CRISWELL TO AN UNDUE BURDEN**

5 Rule 45 provides that the court from which the subpoena was issued "shall quash or modify
6 the subpoena if it . . . subjects a person to undue burden." Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(c)(3)(A)(iv). Forcing
7 Mr. Criswell, who is at most a peripheral witness, to testify at trial will subject him to an undue
8 burden in that it will assuredly result in an escalation of the harassment which he and his staff have
9 already been subjected. There can be little doubt that the courtroom will be packed with observers
10 and media during trial, and if the proceedings are televised, the threat to Mr. Criswell and those
11 associated with him will increase exponentially.

12 A subpoena may be quashed if it is served for the purpose of annoying and harassment rather
13 than to obtain information. *See Mattel Inc. v. Walking Mountain Productions.*, 353 F.3d 792, 814
14 (9th Cir. 2003). Here, Plaintiffs' counsel failed to follow up with Mr. Criswell after he lodged his
15 objections to the documents request, and never attempted to interview, much less depose, Mr.
16 Criswell. Such demonstrated disinterest suggests that the trial subpoena is not designed to obtain
17 relevant information needed by Plaintiffs to pursue their claims but rather to harass and intimidate
18 Mr. Criswell or people associated with Mr. Criswell. MCSI was nothing more than a third party
19 vendor charged with disseminating a message over which it had no control nor authorship, and the
20 subpoena should be quashed as unduly burdensome.

21 **B. ANY TESTIMONY PROVIDED BY MR. CRISWELL WOULD BE**
22 **IRRELEVANT TO THE ISSUES TO BE DECIDED AT TRIAL**

23 Only relevant information is admissible at trial (Fed. R. Evid. 402), and Mr. Criswell cannot
24 possibly offer any relevant testimony as he did not play a role in crafting the advertising strategy or
25 campaign message(s). He merely executed the media plan developed and approved by the
26 decisionmakers in the campaign, and that work product—in the form of television and radio ads—
27 has already been produced in the litigation and presumably will be aired at trial. Mr. Criswell can
28 shed no more light on the intent of the proponents of Proposition 8 than what can be discerned by

1 any individual listening and/or viewing the advertisements because the message had been formulated
2 and the scripts finalized prior to Mr. Criswell’s implementation work. To be sure, as a third party
3 vendor, Mr. Criswell has no role in a constitutional challenge to Proposition 8 as a violation of due
4 process.

5 **C. SHOULD MR. CRISWELL BE FORCED TO TESTIFY AT TRIAL, A**
6 **PROTECTIVE ORDER PREVENTING THE DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL**
7 **AND/OR PRIVATE INFORMATION SHOULD ISSUE**

8 Mr. Criswell and his staff have been harassed and threatened because of their work in
9 connection with the same sex marriage issue. Should the Court deny this Motion to Quash, Mr.
10 Criswell respectfully requests that the Court issue a protective order preventing the disclosure of
11 personal and/or private information—specifically, that he not be compelled to answer questions
12 regarding his address, phone number, clients (other than SFPA), or work (other than on the Yes on 8
13 campaign).

14 **III.**
15 **CONCLUSION**

16 For the foregoing reasons, Mr. Criswell respectfully requests that this Court grant his Motion
17 to Quash pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45(c), or in the alternative, issue a protective
18 order to prevent the disclosure of his personal and/or private information.

19
20 DATED: January 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

HAAS & NAJARIAN, LLP

21
22
23
24 By: _____/s/_____
David E. Bunim
Attorneys for Respondent
25 Bill Criswell

26 N:\CLIENTS\52\5294\002\Motion to Quash.doc

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28