#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**ERIN SMITH** c/o Goodwin Weber PLLC 267 Kentlands Blvd #250 Gaithersburg, MD 20878<sup>1</sup> & **ERIN SMITH, PERSONAL** REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY SMITH c/o Goodwin Weber PLLC 267 Kentlands Blvd #250 Gaithersburg, MD 20878 \* **Plaintiff** Case No. v. DR. DAVID KAUFMAN 411 East Capitol St., SE Washington, DC 20003 & **JOHN DOE** Address Unknown Defendant(s)

## **COMPLAINT**

COME NOW the Plaintiffs, Erin Smith (individually, as surviving spouse of Jeffrey Smith); and Erin Smith, Personal Representative of the Estate of Jeffrey Smith; by and through GOODWIN WEBER PLLC, and undersigned counsel David P. Weber, CFE, and Brian Mahany, and file this Complaint against David Kaufman and John Doe. As grounds therefore, Plaintiffs state as follows:

1. Plaintiff Erin Smith is a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia residing in Fairfax County.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plaintiff is the widow of a Washington, DC Police Officer who died as a proximate cause of the Capitol Insurrection. Her address is not provided for her personal safety.

- 2. Plaintiff Erin Smith was appointed as the Personal Representative of Jeffrey Smith in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County (Case Number 2021-0000214).
  - 3. Defendant Dr. David Kaufman is a resident of the District of Columbia.
- 4. Defendant John Doe is currently unidentified. It is believed that his identity will be ascertained through discovery and further investigation.
- 5. Jurisdiction is founded on 28 USC §1332, as there is complete diversity between all parties.
- 6. Venue is proper in this Court as this lawsuit pertains to a cause of action that arose in Washington, DC.
- 7. On or about January 6, 2021, Jeffrey Smith was employed as a Police Officer by the Metropolitan Police Department. Due to the circumstances surrounding the planned Trump election event, MPD assigned Officer Smith to the Civil Disturbance Unit. Specifically, Officer Smith was part of the larger contingent of MPD and other federal law enforcement that was tasked with responding to the Capitol Insurrection.
- 8. On January 6, 2021 at around 5:00 pm., Officer Smith was working at the United States Capitol. Officer Smith together with fellow MPD officers re-took the Capitol from the insurrectionists, pushing the insurrectionists out of the US Capitol.
- 9. At that time and place, Kaufman was part of the insurrectionist mob inside the US Capitol and was being escorted out of the building by MPD officers. Co-Defendant John Doe handed a cane or crowbar (or similar object) to Kaufman. Kaufman, in turn, violently swung the cane and struck Officer Smith in the face/head. Officer Smith was in a particularly vulnerable situation because his face shield was up (leaving his face and eyes exposed). It appears that Kaufman and John Doe specifically and maliciously targeted Officer Smith because his visor was in

the upright position, making him vulnerable to this brutal and vicious attack.

- 10. At all times relevant hereto, Erin Smith was married to Jeffrey Smith.
- 11. Officer Smith died on January 15, 2021. The cause of death was severe depression and brain injury proximately caused by concussion Officer Smith received by the assault of January 6, 2021 by Kaufman and John Doe. An estate has been opened in the Circuit Court for Fairfax County, FI-2021-0000214.
  - 12. At the time of her death, Erin Smith was dependent on Officer Smith for support.
- 13. Erin Smith, as the surviving widow, is the primary beneficiary of the Estate of Jeffrey Smith.
- 14. That Officer Smith would have been able to maintain a civil cause of action against Kaufman and recover damages had he lived.
- 15. The actions of the Defendants in carrying out the assault were intentional wanton, malicious, deprayed, and were made with a black heart.

#### **COUNT I**

# **ASSAULT & BATTERY**

- 16. All facts and allegations contained hereinabove are incorporated herein by reference.
- 17. The physical contact initiated by Kaufman constituted an intentional and unlawful, harmful or offensive, touching or use of deadly force upon the physical person of Officer Smith.
- 18. As a result of this intentional and unlawful battery, Officer Smith sustained physical pain, injury and illness. Specifically, Officer Smith suffered severe and permanent injuries to his head (concussion), and neck; he suffered great pain and mental anguish and mental distress; and he was otherwise damaged.
  - 19. As a direct result of the unlawful assault and battery, Officer Smith came under the

care of medical doctors; he lost time from his normal duties, employment and activities, all to his financial detriment.

- 20. As a direct result of the unlawful assault by the Defendant, Officer Smith died on January 15, 2021.
- 21. In accordance with DC Code §12-101, et. seq, Erin Smith (as personal representative of Officer Smith's estate) is entitled to bring this action.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Erin Smith, Personal Representative of the Estate of Jeffrey Smith, brings this action and demands judgment against Defendant David Kaufman in the sum of Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) Dollars, plus punitive damages in the amount of Five Million (\$5,000,000.00) Dollars, plus costs and interest.

#### **COUNT II**

#### WRONGFUL DEATH

- 22. That all facts and allegations contained hereinabove without being fully repeated herein.
  - 23. This claim is being brought by Erin Smith as the surviving widow of Jeffrey Smith.
- 24. As a direct and proximate result of the intentional assault by Defendants that, in turn, caused Officer Smith's death, Erin Smith sustained pecuniary loss, mental anguish, emotional pain and suffering, loss of society, loss of companionship, loss of comfort of protection, loss of marital care, loss of filial care, loss of attention, loss of advice, loss of counsel, loss of training, loss of guidance and loss of consortium.
- 25. Pursuant to the Declaration of Jonathan Arden, MD, the former Chief Medical Examiner of the District of Columbia, attached hereto as Exhibit A, the direct and proximate cause of Officer Smith's death is post-concussive syndrome. The effects of post-concussive syndrome, in

turn, includes health maladies such as severe depression and suicide. In other words, but for the concussion of Officer Smith at the hands of these Defendants, Officer Smith would be alive today. He was killed in the line of duty by the Defendants.

- 26. This Complaint is timely filed within two (2) years after the death of Jeffrey Smith.
- 27. In accordance with DC Code §16-2701, et. seq, Erin Smith (as personal representative of Officer Smith's estate) is entitled to bring this action.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Erin Smith, surviving widow of Jeffrey Smith, brings this action and demands judgment against Defendant David Kaufman in the amount of Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, plus punitive damages in the amount of Five Million (\$5,000,000.00) Dollars, plus costs and interest.

#### **COUNT III**

#### AIDING AND ABETTING

- 28. That all facts and allegations contained hereinabove without being fully repeated herein.
- 29. John Doe was part of the insurrectionist mob inside the US Capitol and was being escorted out of the building by MPD officers.
- 30. Co-Defendant John Doe handed a cane, crowbar (or similar object) to Kaufman. Kaufman, in turn, violently swung the cane and struck Officer Smith in the face/head. Officer Smith was in a particularly vulnerable situation because his face shield was up (leaving his face and eyes exposed).
- 31. John Doe possessed actual knowledge of the wrongful intentions of Kaufman. Indeed, there could be no other reason to supply Kaufman with a weapon other than to use it as a cudgel against MPD Officers, like Officer Smith, as the police officers were escorting the mob out

of the Capitol building.

- 32. John Doe directly aided, abetted and encouraged Kaufman's wrongful and tortious conduct, and knowingly supplied substantial assistance, aid and encouragement in the commission of such conduct.
- 33. As a result of this intentional and unlawful battery, Officer Smith sustained physical pain, injury and illness. Specifically, Officer Smith suffered severe and permanent injuries to his head (concussion), and neck; he suffered great pain and mental anguish and mental distress; and he was otherwise damaged. Pursuant to the Declaration of Jonathan Arden, MD, the former Chief Medical Examiner of the District of Columbia, attached hereto as Exhibit A, the direct and proximate cause of Officer Smith's death is post-concussive syndrome. The effects of post-concussive syndrome, in turn, includes health maladies such as severe depression and suicide. In other words, but for the concussion of Officer Smith at the hands of the defendants, Officer Smith would be alive today. He was killed in the line of duty by these defendants.
- 34. As a direct result of the unlawful assault and battery, Officer Smith came under the care of medical doctors; he lost time from his normal duties, employment and activities, all to his financial detriment.
  - 35. As a direct result of the unlawful assault, Officer Smith died on January 15, 2021.
- 36. As a direct and proximate result of the intentional assault which was aided by Defendant Joe Doe and which, in turn, caused Smith's death, Erin Smith sustained pecuniary loss, mental anguish, emotional pain and suffering, loss of society, loss of companionship, loss of comfort of protection, loss of marital care, loss of filial care, loss of attention, loss of advice, loss of counsel, loss of training, loss of guidance and loss of consortium.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Erin Smith, both individually as surviving widow of Jeffrey Smith,

and as Personal Representative, brings this action against Defendant John Doe and demands judgment in the amount of Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, plus punitive damages in the amount of Five Million (\$5,000,000.00) Dollars, plus costs and interest.

/s/ David P. Weber
DAVID P. WEBER, CFE, #468260
Brian Mahany, Of Counsel, *pro hac vice* to be filed

Counsel for Plaintiff GOODWIN WEBER PLLC 267 Kentlands Blvd, Suite 250 Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (301) 850-7600 david.weber@goodwinweberlaw.com

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 

Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues raised herein.

\_\_/s/\_<u>David P.Weber</u> DAVID P. WEBER

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Police and Firefighters' Retirement and Relief Board

In the matter of: D.C. Metropolitan Police Department

Case No. PD21-1045

**ERIN SMITH** 

Petitioner Survivor Annuitant

# **DECLARATION OF DR. JONATHAN L. ARDEN**

COMES NOW your Affiant, Jonathan L. Arden, and states upon his personal knowledge, information and belief:

- 1. I am over the age of 18 and I am competent to testify on the matters contained herein.
- 2. I am a licensed medical doctor and have practiced in the field of forensic pathology for over 35 years. I am the former Chief Medical Examiner of the District of Columbia. A copy of my CV is attached hereto.
- I was retained to render an expert opinion on the manner and cause of death of Jeffrey L. Smith.
  - 4. In connection with this matter, I have reviewed the following:
  - a) The Report of Investigation, and the Report of Autopsy with diagrams (signed March 18,2021) for Jeffrey Louis Smith, from the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
  - b) Certificate of Analysis (i.e., Toxicology Report) for Jeffrey Smith from the Virginia
     Department of Forensic Sciences, dated 2/10 2021.
  - c) Autopsy photographs.
  - d) Autopsy radiograph.
  - e) Certificate of Death, dated 1/19/2021.
  - e) The Forensic Medical Report of Dr. Patrick J. Sheehan, dated July 12, 2021.

- f) The US Park Police crash report.
- g) Police and Fire Clinic records for Jeffrey Smith.
- h) Video of the event when Officer Smith was injured, with screen-capture images.
  - 5. I hold the following opinions to a reasonable degree of medical certainty:
  - a) I agree with the Medical Examiner's opinion that the direct cause of Jeffrey Smith's death was a single tight contact gunshot wound to the head that resulted in a mortal brain injury.
  - b) I agree with Dr. Sheehan's opinion that trauma of January 6, 2021 led to depression which, in turn caused Jeffrey Smith's death. There is a direct cause and effect relationship between the line of duty work trauma on January 6, 2021 and Jeffrey Smith's death on January 15, 2021.
  - c) The social history reports from Erin Smith, together with the decedent's friends and family, strongly support Dr. Sheehan's finding that Jeffrey Smith's suicide was caused by the events of January 6, 2021. The report contains detailed information as to the traumatic events of January 6, 2021 (as Jeffrey Smith described them to others). Jeffrey Smith had no prior history of depression, mental health issues or mental health treatment. There is no evidence of any other intervening or superseding trauma (between January 6, 2021 and January 15, 2021) that could have led to the suicide. What is particularly compelling in this case is that there was a dramatic change in Jeffrey Smith's mood and behavior after the January 6, 2021 riots. In my experience as a forensic pathologist, it is not uncommon to see a suicide in an individual with no prior history of mental health issues which is brought on by an acute trigger (like a death, domestic issue or other physical trauma). As detailed by Dr. Sheehan, there is

hard and reliable evidence that Jeffrey Smith changed after the physical and

emotional trauma he experience on January 6, 2021 as he became withdrawn and

upset. These facts, together with the timing of the suicide (nine days after the trauma)

strongly supports causality.

d) The video of the event demonstrates that Officer Smith was struck in the face and

head while his face shield was up. In the *Injury or Illness Report* that he filed,

Officer Smith reported pain in his "neck and face," corroborating that he was struck

in the face. As a direct result if being struck in the face and head, Officer Smith was

stunned and fell. The loss of consciousness resulting from the blow indicates that he

suffered a concussion. The symptoms that he manifested after being injured in the

riot and leading up to his suicide, including anxiety and depression, represented post-

concussion syndrome. Therefore, his mood changes were the direct result of the head

trauma he suffered in the riot on January 6, 2021.

e) The acute, precipitating event that caused the death of Officer Smith was his

occupational exposure to the traumatic events (including sustaining a concussion

with post-concussive syndrome) that he suffered on January 6, 2021, in connection

with his duties as a Metropolitan Police Officer of the District of Columbia.

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE THE BEST OF

MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF.

JONATHAN L. ARDEN, M.D.

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DATE: <u>8/13/2021</u>

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Date:

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Plaintiff(s) V.	) ) ) ) ) Civil Action No. ) )
Defendant(s)	)
SUMMONS IN	N A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address)	
are the United States or a United States agency, or an offi	you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you icer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. Inswer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of ion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney,
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
	ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

# PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (name	me of individual and title, if a	uny)							
was rec	ceived by me on (date)		·							
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		, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,								
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	designated by law to	accept service of proces	s on behalf of (name of organization)							
			on (date)	; or						
	☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because ☐ Other (specify):									
	My fees are \$	for travel and	\$ for services, for a total of \$							
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.									
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

# CIVIL COVER SHEET

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## Case 1:21-cv-02170-ACR Document 1-3 Filed 08/13/21 Page 2 of 2

O G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255	O H. Employment Discrimination	O I. FOIA/Privacy Act	O J. Student Loan			
530 Habeas Corpus – General 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation)	895 Freedom of Information Act 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act)	152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)			
	*(If pro se, select this deck)*	*(If pro se, select this deck)*				
K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment)  710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 740 Labor Railway Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment)  441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act)  443 Housing/Accommodations  440 Other Civil Rights  445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment  446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other  448 Education	M. Contract  110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholder's Suits 190 Other Contracts 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	N. Three-Judge Court  441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)			
V. ORIGIN						
O 1 Original Proceeding From State Court O 3 Remanded or Reopened Court O 5 Transferred from another district (specify) O 6 Multi-district O 7 Appeal to District Judge from Mag. Judge						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.)						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT  CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23  DEMAND \$ 7,000,000  JURY DEMAND:  Check YES only if demanded in complaint YES NO						
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instruction) YES	NO X If yes, p	lease complete related case form			
DATE:	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF REC	CORD/s/ David F	P. Weber			

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil cover sheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I. COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the <u>primary</u> cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only <u>one</u> category. You <u>must</u> also select <u>one</u> corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.