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Actress Gina Carano Files Discrimination Lawsuit Against Disney Company & Lucasfilm

Mandalorian star harassed, terminated for political views

Los Angeles, CA - Today, Gina Carano, the actress who played Cara Dune in the Disney+Series *The Mandalorian*, filed suit against The Walt Disney Company and Lucasfilm for their wrongful and discriminatory treatment and termination of Carano. The Complaint, filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, outlines in detail the harassment and bullying Carano endured simply for voicing her personal, political opinions on X and other social media platforms.

"This is a civil action arising from the Defendants' wrongful termination of Carano's employment in retaliation for Carano's lawful exercise of her right to speak and express her views," says the complaint. "Carano was defamed when Defendants publicly mischaracterized her social media posts and her character, resulting in the loss of her agent and attorney as well as future employment opportunities."

Ms. Carano was bullied and harassed on social media for refusing to support movements and ideologies with which she did not agree and for raising questions on various issues of the day, including such issues as Black Lives Matter, Covid lockdowns, election irregularities and transgender pronouns.

Disney and Lucasfilm targeted Carano for harassment, termination, and public defamation—all because she expressed views that did not align with those of Disney and Lucasfilm. This was at a time when several of Carano's male co-stars posted offensive and denigrating posts on social media directed towards Republicans and conservatives. None of Carano's male co-stars were disciplined, terminated, or publicly accused of denigrating people based on their "cultural and religious identities" that Disney <u>claimed</u> was their reason for her firing.

"Disney bullied Ms. Carano, trying to force her to conform to their views about cultural and political issues, and when that bullying failed, they fired her," said Gene Schaerr, managing partner at Schaerr Jaffe, LLP and attorney of record on the case. "Punishing employees for their speech on political or social issues is illegal under California law." For example, Section 1102 of the California Labor Code states: "No employer shall coerce or



influence or attempt to coerce or influence his employees through or by means of threat of discharge or loss of employment to adopt or follow or refrain from adopting or following any particular course or line of political action or political activity."

Ms. Carano added: "We rely on our leaders and people in positions of power to be just, cool-headed and steady-handed and to be able to listen to all sides of the story, keep the peace and act justly." However, "some of us have been unjustly singled out, harassed, persecuted and had our livelihoods stripped away because we dared to encourage conversation, asked questions, and refused to go along with the mob."

California law also prohibits terminating a female for conduct her male colleagues were permitted to do. And here, even though Carano's Cara Dune character was wildly popular and Carano was nominated and received numerous awards for her acting, Disney and Lucasfilm are alleged to have chosen ideology over Carano's rights. They did that even though Carano was well supported and liked by her co-stars and the show's staff.

Ms. Carano is being supported in this effort by X Corp, which stated: "As a sign of X Corp's commitment to free speech, the online platform is proud to provide financial support for Carano's lawsuit, empowering her to seek vindication of her free speech rights on X and the ability to work without bullying, harassment, or discrimination."

In response to X's support, Carano stated: "I am honored that my case has been chosen to be supported by the company that has been one of the last glimmers of hope for free speech in the world. Thank you to Elon Musk and X for supporting me as I endeavor to clear my name and, I hope, make it more difficult for what happened to me to happen to the next person."

Interview requests for Ms. Carano, and other inquiries regarding the case, should be directed to CaranoLawsuit@Schaerr-Jaffe.com.