

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

VOLUME 171, NO. 69

LAW BULLETIN MEDIA

Suit against Justin Bieber tossed

Woman claimed Facebook request caused her emotional distress

PATRICIA MANSON

pmanson@lawbulletinmedia.com

A woman who alleges Justin Bieber asked his sister to “friend” her on Facebook in a scheme to get in touch with a former girlfriend cannot prove the pop star caused her severe emotional distress, an Illinois judge ruled.

Cook County Circuit Judge Sarah Johnson dismissed plaintiff Valencia Renee Dantzler’s lawsuit with prejudice in a written order. In a separate order, she found Dantzler in civil contempt of court for sending emails and posting videos online cursing, belittling and threatening Bieber and his attorneys.

Dantzler, a self-described entertainment professional who also goes by the name Mother Diva, maintains receiving the friend request forced her to relive her traumatic and abusive childhood.

But Dantzler did not show that her purported injuries are “fairly traceable” to anything Bieber did, Johnson wrote in the order dismissing the suit, quoting *Greer v. The Illinois Housing Development Authority*, 122 Ill. 2d 462 (1988).

“Objectively,” she wrote, “asking a sibling to send a friend request to another individual fails to rise to the level



A woman made accusations of emotional distress involving Justin Bieber, pictured in 2015, and a Facebook request. A Cook County judge rejected her lawsuit. AP Photo/Antonio Calanni

of extreme and outrageous.”

Dantzler sued Bieber and his sister, Jazmyn Kathleen Bieber, in August 2023. Justin was the only defendant left by the time Dantzler filed her fifth-amended suit last month.

Dantzler alleges she had a mother/daughter relationship with Paris Jackson for several years. Paris is the daughter of Michael Jackson, the late “king of pop,” and, Dantzler contends, Bieber’s former girlfriend.

Whether Bieber and Jackson were in a romantic relationship at any time is a matter of

dispute. Most observers seem to think the two are longtime friends but nothing more, while others claim they used to date.

Dantzler contends Bieber and Jackson are meant to be together.

In a post on her LinkedIn account about four months ago, Dantzler announced Bieber was planning a press conference to “publicly denounce his fake marriage to Hailey Baldwin and confess his love for his soul mate Paris Jackson.”

In her suit, Dantzler alleged

Bieber tried to get Jackson’s attention through her by asking his sister to send the friend request.

Dantzler sought varied amounts of damages in different versions of her suit. In one version, she sought \$7 and an apology from Bieber.

In a telephone interview with the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Dantzler said she selected the number seven because Paris Jackson was 7 years old when the two met.

Bieber, for his part, has previously posted on social media that the number seven has

spiritual significance. Dantzler said she asked for only minimal damages in the earlier stages of litigation because her primary concern was to get an apology. But when Bieber refused to apologize, she asked for \$777,777.77 in her next amended suit, as well as separate apologies from Bieber to herself and Jazmyn, Dantzler said.

Dantzler represents herself in the case. Bieber is represented by attorneys who include Ryan B. Jacobson of Amundsen Davis LLC's Chicago office.

In her second order Tuesday, Johnson granted Jacobson's emergency motion for injunctive relief and additional sanctions.

She had ordered Dantzler in September to limit all communications about her case to Jacobson.

However, she wrote, Dantzler over more than three months communicated about the case with Jacobson — and anyone else with access to the internet — in profanity-filled YouTube videos and emails.

In February, Johnson prohibited Dantzler from communicating with any party represented by counsel or with any member of the Amundsen firm other than Jacobson.

In March, Cook County Circuit Judge Thomas M. Cushing, who was handling a motion for a protective order

and sanctions filed by Bieber, ordered Dantzler to refrain “from disparaging, insulting or cursing” at parties in the case or their attorneys and family members.

Jacobson then filed motions to dismiss the suit, to impose sanctions and to order Dantzler to pay his costs.

The case went back to Johnson, who in a sanctions order found Dantzler in indirect civil contempt. She prohibited Dantzler from making or publishing any false, disparaging or threatening remarks about Bieber's lawyers.

In her separate order dismissing the suit, Johnson held Dantzler failed to meet other standing requirements in addition to the “fairly traceable” requirement set out in *Greer*.

Dantzler also failed to allege enough facts to go forward with her claim of intentional infliction of emotional distress, Johnson held.

To state such a claim, she wrote, quoting *Schiller v. Mitchell*, 357 Ill. App. 3d 435 (2005), plaintiffs must adequately allege the defendants engaged in conduct that was “atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.”

Plaintiffs also must adequately allege the defendants intended to cause or knew there was a “high probability” their conduct would cause severe emotional distress, Johnson wrote.

And she wrote plaintiffs

must adequately allege they actually suffered severe emotional distress.

The distress “must not be the product of some independent action taken by a third party that is not before the court,” Johnson wrote, quoting *Petta v. Christie Business Holdings Co. P.C.*, 2025 IL 130337 (Jan. 24, 2025).

She wrote Dantzler's allegation that Justin Bieber, the only defendant remaining in the case, made his sister contact her “is not only speculative but also involves the action of a third party.”

In a third order, Johnson directed Dantzler to pay attorney fees and costs to Bieber to cover “the professional time and expenses incurred as a result of Plaintiff's sanctionable conduct.”

The attorney fees amount to \$25,784 and the costs to \$850, Johnson wrote, for a total of \$26,634. She ordered Dantzler to pay the money within a year.

The case is Valencia Renee Dantzler v. Justin Drew Bieber, 2023 L 008044.

In the phone interview, Dantzler said she will ask Johnson to reconsider her rulings. She will file an appeal if the judge denies her request, she said.

Dantzler attributed some of her conduct to her status as a pro se litigant, her unfamiliarity with the law and court procedures and the fact that five

different judges presided over the case at one time or another.

Acknowledging that some of her actions and statements violated court rules or procedures, Dantzler said she could accept the contempt finding. But she plans to continue to pursue an apology from Bieber.

“I'll keep going until he looks me in the face and says, ‘Ma'am, I apologize,’” Dantzler said, adding that she will not pay sanctions to Bieber. “He will not get \$26,000 from me.”

In a statement, Jacobson said the end of Dantzler's purported attempt to “leverage a payday” — at least at the trial court level — “comes after several opportunities to amend the complaint over the course of two years [and] multiple warnings by five different judges.”

The case shows the need for “a formalized *§* litigant statute” at the trial court level, Jacobson continued.

He gave a colorful description of the legal proceedings.

“This was the legal equivalent of letting an unhinged fan storm the stage — not to enhance the melody — but to attack the lead singer, insult the audience, and then demand a Grammy for her chaos,” Jacobson said.

Quoting a lyric from Bieber's song “Sorry,” he added: “It's too late now to say sorry.”