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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

JASON SCOTT,)
)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.) CASE NO. C94-0079C
)
) ORDER
 RICK ROSS, et al.,)
)
)
 Defendants.)

This matter comes before the Court on the following motions:
(1) defendant Cult Awareness Network's (hereinafter "CAN") motion for judgment as a matter of law, a new trial, or a new trial conditioned on a remittitur; (2) CAN's and defendant Rick Ross' motions to stay execution of judgment; (3) defendant Rick Ross' motion for a new trial or amendment of judgment; and (4) plaintiff Jason Scott's motion for an award of attorney's fees.

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

In January 1994, Mr. Scott filed this action requesting a jury trial on a variety of claims against CAN, Mr. Ross, Mr. Mark Workman, Mr. Charles Simpson and Mr. Clark Retroff.¹ Each of the

¹Prior to trial, plaintiff entered into a settlement agreement with Mr. Retroff for an undisclosed sum.

1 Finally, the Court notes each of the defendants' seeming
2 incapability of appreciating the maliciousness of their conduct
3 towards Mr. Scott. Rather, throughout the entire course of this
4 litigation they have attempted to portray themselves as victims of
5 Mr. Scott's counsel's alleged agenda. Thus, the large award given
6 by the jury against both CAN and Mr. Ross seems reasonably
7 necessary to enforce the jury's determination on the oppressiveness
8 of the defendants' actions and deter similar conduct in the future.
9 Accordingly, the Court finds that both the compensatory and
10 punitive damages awards were reasonable and well founded in the
11 evidence.

12 V. MOTION TO STAY JUDGMENT

13 Both CAN and Mr. Ross moved the Court for an order staying the
14 exercise of the judgment in this matter until after the decision on
15 the Rule 50 and Rule 59 motions. These motions are moot.

16 VI. MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES

17 Mr. Scott requests attorney's fees in the amount of
18 \$225,915.00. This request is made pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988
19 which provides that a Court may award attorney's fees to a
20 prevailing party in a § 1985 claim. 42 U.S.C. § 1988(b).

21 In response to the request for fees, defendants CAN and Mr.
22 Ross notified the Court that they have declared bankruptcy since
23 the entry of judgment. As such, they correctly contend that any
24 decision on the award of attorney's fees against them is
25 automatically stayed under bankruptcy law. 11 U.S.C. § 362(a). In