# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lenwood Hamilton, a/k/a Hard Rock or Skip Hamilton, 1201 Willow Street, Apt. 5 Norristown, PA 19401,

**Plaintiff** 

VS.

Lester Speight, a/k/a
Rasta the Urban Warrior, a/k/a
Augustus "Cole Train" Cole
8331 Woodlake Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91304
or (alternative address)
P.O. Box 6482
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Epic Games, Inc. 620 Crossroads Boulevard Cary, NC 27518

Microsoft, Inc., a/k/a Microsoft Corporation One Microsoft Way Redmond, WA 98052-6399

Microsoft Studios, a division or subsidiary or trade name of Microsoft, Inc., a/k/a Microsoft Corporation 4400 148th Avenue NE Redmond, WA 98052

The Coalition, a trade name of Microsoft Canada Development Centre d/b/a Microsoft Vancouver ("MCDC"), where MCDC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Microsoft, Inc., a/k/a Microsoft Corporation (cont'd)

Civ. Action No. 2:17-cv-0169-AB

SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

858 Beatty Street, 6F Vancouver, BC, Canada V68 1C1

**Defendants** 

## **SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Lenwood Hamilton, by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby complains against Defendants Lester Speight, Epic Games, Inc., Microsoft, Inc. (a/k/a Microsoft Corporation), Microsoft Studios, and the Coalition (a/k/a Microsoft Canada Development Centre), via this Second Amended Complaint (with Court permission (ECF 31)), as follows:

## **PARTIES**

- 1. Lenwood Hamilton ("Hamilton") is an adult individual with an address of 1201 Willow street, Apt. 5, Norristown, PA 19401. Hamilton is also known as "Hard Rock" Hamilton and/or Skip Hamilton.
- 2. Lester Speight ("Speight") is an adult individual with an address of 8331 Woodlake Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91304, and an alternate mailing address at P.O. Box 6482, Woodland Hills, CA 91365. In his career as a professional wrestler, Speight was known as Rasta the Urban Warrior. In the "Gears of War" video game series described later in this Complaint, Speight is the supposed human persona of an avatar named Augustus "Cole Train" Cole, or simply "Cole Train."
- 3. Epic Games, Inc. ("Epic"), is a North Carolina business corporation with a principal office address at 620 Crossroads Boulevard,

Cary, NC 27518. Epic is the creator and developer of the "Gears of War" video game series that was first introduced in 2006.

- 4. Microsoft, Inc., a/k/a Microsoft Corporation ("Microsoft"), is a Washington State business corporation with a principal office address at One Microsoft Way, Redmond WA 98052-6399. Microsoft is a distributor and/or publisher of the "Gears of War" video game series.
- 5. Microsoft Studios ("Microsoft Studios" or formerly "Microsoft Game Studios") is a Washington State business, and a division or subsidiary or trade name of Microsoft, with a principal office address at 4400 148th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98502. Microsoft Studios is a distributor and/or publisher of one or more of the "Gears of War" video game series that was first introduced in 2006.
- 6. The Coalition ("The Coalition") is a trade name of Microsoft Canada Development Centre d/b/a Microsoft Vancouver "(MCDC"), where MCDC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft, and has a principal business office address of 858 Beatty Street, 6F, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V68 1C1. The Coalition (a/k/a MCDC) is a distributor and/or publisher of one or more of the "Gears of War" video game series that was first introduced in 2006.

#### BACKGROUND

- 7. Hamilton played high school football in the 1970's at Wilson High School in Easton, PA. Although Hamilton was a talented athlete, he was not an academic standout.
- 8. Hamilton played college football at North Carolina State
  University in 1978-1980, and at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA in
  1981-1982.
- 9. On or about November 28, 1982, following the college football game between Southern University and Grambling College, Hamilton had a consensual sexual relationship with a woman at a New Orleans hotel. However, the woman charged him with rape. Hamilton was arrested, imprisoned, tried and found guilty. However, the woman later recanted her testimony and the charges were dropped. Thus, Hamilton was never convicted, but he did suffer stigmatization and notoriety as a result of the ordeal.
- 10. In 1983-1984, Hamilton tried out for the Philadelphia Eagles professional football team as a free agent, but he did not make the team. However, there was a feature story published about Hamilton in the Philadelphia Inquirer on July 18, 1984, including photographs (**Exh. A**), describing his hard scrabble life and referencing his rape trial and acquittal.

- 11. In 1984-1985, Hamilton played for the Edmonton Eskimos in the Canadian Football League. Hamilton's tenure with the Eskimos was promoted by the Philadelphia Eagles.
- 12. In 1987, Hamilton was again on the squad of the Philadelphia Eagles in a strike-shortened season, and played in one NFL game. At or about that time, Hamilton was fitted with a gold crown on one of his upper front teeth.
- 13. Beginning in 1988, Hamilton became a professional wrestler. He had professional wrestling bouts in Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and Germany, among other venues.
- 14. In the 1990's Hamilton became a motivational speaker. As a speaker, he strives to inspire disadvantaged young people to believe in themselves, work hard, overcome adversity, and achieve success.
- 15. In or about 1996, Hamilton became interested in organizing his own pro wrestling organization to promote wrestling as family entertainment.
- 16. On or about January 6, 1997, Hamilton registered Soul City Wrestling, Inc. with the PA Department of State (Entity No. 2732099).
- 17. Beginning in 1997, Soul City Wrestling, Inc. promoted professional wrestling bouts at several venues in Philadelphia, and in Montgomery County and Northampton County, PA, among other venues. "Hard Rock" Hamilton was known as the "Soul City Heavyweight Champion

of the World" in many of the wrestling bouts, and he was usually in the main event. One of the slogans of Soul City Wrestling, Inc. was "The Children are the Future." Another slogan pertinent to "Hard Rock" Hamilton was "Defender of the Youth of America." Hamilton appeared in a number of television interviews to promote Soul City Wrestling, including, for example, a 1999 feature story narrated by Vernon Odom, a reporter for WPVI-TV, Channel 6, an ABC affiliate. He also appeared in TV interview shows hosted by Wally Kennedy and Morton Downey, Jr. Videotapes were made of these televison appearances. Hamilton was also the subject of a number of newspaper articles that described the family entertainment mission of the Soul City Wrestling organization, including but not limited to The Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Sunday Sun, The Philadelphia Daily News, and The Norristown Times Herald.

18. "Hard Rock" Hamilton the wrestler exhibited a certain cachet that included the donning of a derby hat and wrist cuffs on sleeveless arms, that he would wear when entering the ring with characteristic charisma, before peeling off the hat and wrist cuffs for the bout. A Soul City Wrestling promotional photo from the 1990's depicted this absolutely unique combination (as seen in attached **Exh. B**). Also, Hamilton exploited his front gold tooth by exhibiting it on Soul City Wresting promotional materials and clothing items, including a sweatshirt with his muscular caricature and signature derby hat (as seen in attached **Exh. C**).

- 19. Certain persons assisted Soul City Wrestling, Inc., including but not limited to Greg Bushu (an investor), and Robert Geary (a ring announcer and video, photography and audio director), and Jim Morrison a/k/a Bobo Brazil, Jr. (a talent scout).
- 20. On or about March 24, 1998, Hamilton registered Soul City Sports, Inc. with the PA Department of State (Entity No. 2807247).
- 21. On or about March 31, 1998, Hard Rock Hamilton met with then Philadelphia Mayor Edward G. Rendell to request assistance and publicity for Soul City Wrestling, Inc. to supplement the efforts of the Police Athletic League and Philadelphia Recreation Centers in developing meaningful activities for young people in the City, and the Mayor subsequently wrote Hamilton a supportive letter (**Exh. D**).
- 22. In or about May 1998, Bobo Brazil, Jr. recruited Lester Speight a/k/a Rasta the Urban Warrior, to participate in a several bouts put on by Soul City Wrestling, Inc. The first such bout occurred on or about May 25, 1998. Speight was considered as a potential tag-team partner for Hamilton.
- 23. On July 25, 1998, Soul City Wrestling, Inc. sponsored a wrestling event at Viking Hall in Philadelphia featuring, among others, "Hard Rock" Hamilton and "Rasta the Urban Warrior" (Lester Speight). A copy of a poster (reduced in size) announcing this event is attached as **Exh. E**.

- 24. On July 25, 1998, Speight discussed plans for a video game with Hamilton at the wrestling event after-party. Speight said the video game he had in contemplation would feature violence, but Hamilton told Speight he was not interested in doing a video game centering on violence.
- 25. In the 1997-1999 time period, Bushu recorded a number of Soul City Wrestling events at the Big O Center (Ortlieb's Brewery) in Philadelphia, and in other regional venues, via videotape, that included wrestling performances by Hard Rock Hamilton and others, and speaking interviews with Hamilton. Bushu paid for the videos and kept them.
- 26. Bushu also obtained Soul City Wrestling promotional materials, including photographs of Hamilton in his derby hat and wearing wrist cuffs on sleeveless arms.
- 27. During the 1999 timeframe, a meeting was scheduled at the residence of Greg Bushu in Blue Bell, PA to discuss the direction of Soul City Wrestling, Inc. and related companies, and a possible wrestling contract with the Disney Company. A day prior to the meeting, Bushu discussed with Hamilton the production of a possible video game that would involve violence, but Hamilton said he was not interested. Bushu said he would proceed without Hamilton.
- 28. The original invitees to the 1999 meeting included at least Greg Bushu, Bobo Brazil, Jr. and Hamilton.

- 29. Although the meeting was convened, Hamilton was not allowed to attend. Greg Bushu would not admit Hamilton to his residence.
- 30. During all relevant periods, Robert Geary had maintained a repository of Hamilton's voice recordings, TV interviews and photographs of Hard Rock Hamilton.
- 31. On or about August 29, 2001, Hamilton registered Soul City Entertainment, LLC with the PA Department of State (Entity No. 3023113).
- 32. On or about January 28, 2002, Hamilton registered Soul City Mentoring Program (Non-Profit Corporation) with the PA Department of State (Entity No. 3049626). In November 2005, Hamilton obtained a letter of reference from John P. McGee, Deputy Commissioner of the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Welfare, Children and Youth Division, in connection with his motivational speaking activities and Soul City Mentoring, Inc. (Exh. F).
- 33. In 2006, Defendant Epic Games, Inc. developed the video game, Gears of War.
- 34. On or about November 7, 2006, Defendant Microsoft Studios published the video game, Gears of War.
- 35. The 2006 Gears of War video game (hereinafter "GOW-1") was a commercial success. Millions of dollars of GOW-1 were sold in the United States and abroad.

- 36. GOW-1 features the troops of Delta Squad on the fictional planet Sera in a determined fight against a subterranean enemy known as the Locust Horde that is threatening human survival. There are four main avatar characters in Delta Squad, namely Marcus Fenix, Dominic "Dom" Santiago, Damon Baird, and Augustus "Cole Train" Cole. "Cole Train" is the only one of the four who is black. Promotional materials for the GOW-1 video game describe the human persona and voice of "Cole Train" as Lester Speight.
- 37. "Cole Train" is also described in GOW literature as "Superstar Cole," referring to his pre-soldier history as a superlative "thrashball" player, a sport that resembles American football.
- 38. The GOW-1 video game included a "shoot-em-up" anthem attributed to the "Cole Train" avatar, called "The Cole Train Rap." This anthem, glorifying violence and mayhem, played continuously during the post-game credits of GOW-1. The lyrics of The Cole Train Rap, which are distinctively memorable to most listeners, are attached as **Exh. G**.
- 39. Also in 2006, Lester Speight had a role in a movie titled "Bachelor Party Vegas" in which he played a character named "Gold Tooth," who naturally had a front gold tooth, as depicted in **Exh. H**, a screenshot from the movie. However, Speight does not actually have a gold tooth.
- 40. In 2006-2007 video game critics extolled GOW-1 as the "Xbox 360 Game of the Year." G4 TV named Marcus Fenix the "Best New

Character" and gave Lester Speight's performance for "Augustus 'Cole Train'
Cole" the award for "Best Voiceover."

- 41. Beginning as early as 2006, Epic Games and Microsoft and Microsoft Studios began marketing the GOW-1 video game in disk form and via PC download, and they also marketed other GOW paraphernalia and memorabilia, including but not limited to GOW-themed guide books (with detailed instructions on how to play the game), comic books, sound tracks, and merchandise, including but not limited to toy figurines of the characters (including Cole Train), toy figurines of Cole Train in "thrashball" regalia (looking like a football player), and sport shirts emblazoned with the name "Cole" and the number "83." Plaintiff expects to learn of more marketing items through discovery.
- 42. In 2008, Defendant Epic Games, Inc. developed the video game, Gears of War 2 ("GOW-2"). GOW-2 featured the same avatars found in GOW-1.
- 43. On or about November 7, 2008, Defendant Microsoft Studios published the GOW-2 video game.
- 44. In 2008, in conjunction with the release of GOW-2, Speight did an interview regarding "Cole Train," and stated that he "tried different voices" and "settled on a raspy voice."
- 45. The GOW-2 video game was a commercial success. Millions of dollars of GOW-2 were sold in the United States and abroad.

- 46. In 2011, Soul City Wrestling sponsored its final wrestling event.
- 47. In 2011, Defendant Epic Games, Inc. developed the video game, Gears of War 3 ("GOW-3"). GOW-3 featured the same avatars found in GOW-1 and GOW-2.
- 48. On or about April 6, 2011, Defendant Microsoft Studios published the video game GOW-3.
- 49. The GOW-3 video game was a commercial success. Millions of dollars of GOW-3 were sold in the United States and abroad.
- 50. The GOW-3 video game also included the "shoot-em-up" anthem called "The Cole Train Rap." It played continuously during the post-game credits of GOW-3.
- 51. In 2013, Defendant Epic Games, Inc. developed the video game, Gears of War: Judgment ("GOW-J"). GOW-J featured the same avatars found in GOW-1, GOW-2 and GOW-3.
- 52. On or about March 19, 2013, Defendant Microsoft Studios published the video game GOW-J.
- 53. The GOW-J video game was a commercial success. Millions of dollars of GOW-J were sold in the United States and abroad.
- 54. On January 27, 2014, Microsoft announced that it had acquired all rights to the Gears of War video game franchise from Epic Games, Inc.

- 55. Also in January 2014, Microsoft announced that over 22 million units of the Gears of War video game series had been sold, and the sales had generated revenue of over \$1 billion.
- 56. Up until January 2015, Plaintiff Hamilton was not familiar with video games in general, and not at all familiar with the Gears of War video game series.
- 57. On January 10, 2015, a playmate friend of Hamilton's son David brought to Hamilton's attention that there was a character in the Gears of War video game series that looked and sounded like Hamilton. The next day, January 11, 2015, Hamilton looked at some of the Gears of War video games for the first time and realized that the avatar "Cole Train" was his own likeness, and also, Cole Train's voice was his own, Hamilton's. Hamilton's voice and mannerisms of speech are distinctive.
- 58. Hamilton contacted his friend Dr. Ray Abdallah, a chiropractor, to ask if he had any legal recourse with regard to the Gears of War video games, and Dr. Abdallah, promptly, on January 12, 2015, put him in touch with Attorney Fred Tecce, Esq.
- 59. Hamilton spoke by telephone with Attorney Fred Tecce on January 12, 2015, and Attorney Tecce advised Hamilton that he had two years to file a lawsuit, and he would review relevant materials forwarded by Hamilton and Dr. Abdallah to determine if he was interested in taking Hamilton's case.

- 60. Hamilton and Dr. Abdallah forwarded materials to Attorney Tecce in January 2015 for review. In February 2015, Attorney Tecce advised Dr. Abdallah and Hamilton that he and his law firm were declining the case for business reasons, but he encouraged Hamilton to seek other counsel.
- 61. In July and August 2015, an attorney for Hamilton, Charles W. Campbell, Esq., was in touch with an attorney for Epic Games, Inc., via correspondence (**Exh. I**, August 7, 2015 letter, incorporated herein) to demand fair and reasonable compensation for Hamilton for Epic's use of Hamilton's likeness and voice in the Gears of War character Augustus Cole. Among other things, Attorney Campbell's letter stated:

Those connections [between Speight and Hamilton] include, but are not limited to:

- The similarities between my client [Hamilton] and the appearance, dress, voice and tag lines of Augustus Cole;
- 2. The fact that Lester Speight (i.e. the voiceover and real-life persona of Augustus Cole) was an employee of my client's company (i.e. Soul City Wrestling) prior to the creation of the Augustus Cole character; and
- 3. The fact that my client and Lester Speight spoke about the creation of a video game character prior to the release of Gears of War.

Please see the enclosed documents, including (a) the sideby-side comparison of my client and Augustus Cole; (b) the various Soul City Wrestling cards showing my client and Lester Speight together; and (c) the accounting records of Soul City Wrestling evidencing the fact that Lester Speight was compensated by Soul City Wrestling.

- 62. Attached hereto as **Exh. J** is a photo comparison of avatar Augustus "Cole Train" Cole from the Gears of War video game series on the top, and a photograph of Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton on the bottom.

  Attached as **Exh. K** is another image of the "Cole Train" avatar bearing a strong resemblance to Hamilton.
- 63. Attached hereto as **Exh. L** is a photo comparison of avatar Augustus "Cole Train" Cole from the Gears of War video game series on the top in derby hat and wearing wristbands, and a promotional photo of Hard Rock Hamilton, S.C.W. (Soul City Wrestling) on the bottom in derby hat and wearing wrist cuffs on sleeveless arms. The derby hat and wrist cuffs are unregistered marks of Lenwood "Hard Rock" Hamilton, and/or accoutrements of his role as a wrestling performer.
- 64. Attached as **Exh. M** is a screenshot from GOW-3 depicting Cole Train in action as Superstar Cole, wearing a derby hat and wristbands on sleeveless arms.
- 65. The similarities of the avatar "Cole Train" and Hard Rock
  Hamilton include that both are black (and "Cole Train" is the main black
  avatar in the Gears of War series, they both played football (although in
  Gears of War the game is called "thrashball"), Cole Train's number is 83
  (same year that Hamilton first played for the Philadelphia Eagles 1983),
  the derby hat, wristbands, and a striking resemblance of both physiognomy

and body build. Further, in the GOW storyline, Cole Train played "thrashball" both for and against the Eagles.

- 66. In August 2015, Microsoft and/or Microsoft Studios and/or The Coalition published a remastering titled *Gears of War: Ultimate Edition* which was released for the Xbox One video game player. The *Ultimate Edition* includes the avatars in GOW-1, GOW-2, GOW-3, and GOW-J, and it has been a commercial success.
- 67. On August 25, 2015, Microsoft released a video advertisement to promote the remastered *Gears of War: Ultimate Edition* and the newly-released Xbox One console. The video, lasting about 1 minute and 50 seconds, featured The Cole Train Rap. The video can be seen at the following web address:

www.comiccoverage.com/gears-of-war-ultimate-edition-the-cole-train-rap .

The advertised Xbox One console in the video had a selling price of \$349.00.

68. From about October 23, 2015 to November 20, 2015, to further promote sales of the Xbox One console, Microsoft sponsored a contest in the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada (except the province of Quebec, where it was void), inviting the public to submit their creative versions of The Cole Train Rap. Contestants would make their entries available to the public on YouTube videos, with winners to be announced on December 15, 2015. The winners would receive an XBox One console valued at \$349.00. Microsoft promoted the contest with an image of Cole

Train in derby hat with wrist bands on sleeveless arms, and the legend "Contest Make Your Own Cole Train Rap!" (Exh. N).

- 69. In 2016, Defendant The Coalition developed the video game, Gears of War 4 ("GOW-4"). GOW-4 featured the same avatars found in GOW-1, GOW-2, GOW-3 and GOW-J.
- 70. On or about October 7, 2016, Defendants Microsoft Studios and/or The Coalition published the video game GOW-4. Some editions of GOW-4 also included the prior games, GOW-1, GOW-2, GOW-3, and GOW-J.
- 71. The GOW-4 video game was a commercial success. Millions of dollars of GOW-4 were sold in the United States and abroad.
- 72. At all relevant times, Defendant Microsoft was the parent company of Defendant Microsoft Studios, or alternatively, Microsoft Studios was simply a trade name of Microsoft. Also, at all relevant times, Microsoft was the parent of MCDC, which utilized the trade name "The Coalition."
- 73. At all relevant times, Defendant Speight was the alleged voiceover for the Gears of War character, Cole Train.
- 74. On April 5, 2016, Owen Forensics Services (Colonia, New Jersey) conducted a voice analysis and comparison, which compared the video game voiceover of Cole Train with the voice of Hamilton.
- 75. On April 29, 2016, forensic voice examiner Tom Owen of Owen Forensics Services, completed a voice analysis and comparison report, which

compared the video game voiceover of Cole Train from the Gears of War video games with the known voice of Hamilton recorded in his studio.

- 76. Forensic voice examiner Tom Owen opined in a written report dated April 29, 2016 (**Exh. O**), based on his comparative scientific testing and his education, training, certifications and experience in voice analysis (37 years), that the Cole Train voiceover used in the Gears of War video games and the voice of Hamilton are the same voice.
- 77. Forensic voice examiner Tom Owen issued his opinion to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty.
- 78. Prior to April 2016, Mr. Owen had been qualified as an expert voice identification expert witness in numerous State and Federal courts, over several decades, as reflected in his CV (Exh. P).
- 79. As indicative of the likelihood of confusion between the Cole
  Train avatar and Hard Rock Hamilton, Robert Geary posted an unsolicited
  comment to the Jan. 19, 2017 philly.com article ("Former Eagle sues
  Microsoft, says he inspired 'Gears of War' character") about the original
  complaint in this case, stating, among other things (**Exh. Q**): "This is
  100% LEGIT I was in Soul City Wrestling and nobody had a derby and wrist
  bands like Hard Rock Hamilton. This joker Speight ripped off Hamilton and
  he owes him something, plain and simple. The character looks, talks,
  moves, and acts like Hamilton..... You can't take a person's likeness,

characteristics, charisma, and mannerisms and profit from it while you stiff them."

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 80. The relevant activities involving Plaintiff Hamilton and Defendant Speight occurred in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, primarily in Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties.
- 81. Defendants Epic, Microsoft, Microsoft Studios, and the Coalition sold all versions of the Gears of War video games throughout the United States and within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. For example, and not by way of limitation, the Gears of War video game series is available for purchase at numerous "GameStop" stores within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 82. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) as Defendants' activities have caused substantial damage to Plaintiff Hamilton in this district.
- 83. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and there is diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff Hamilton and all Defendants; thus, jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332.
- 84. There is jurisdiction in the Federal Courts for Lanham Act claims under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a), and 15 U.S.C. § 1121.
- 85. The District Court has supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

# COUNT I – UNAUTHORIZED USE OF NAME OR LIKENESS (INCLUDING VOICE) IN VIOLATION OF 42 Pa.C.S.A. § 8316

- 86. The averments of Paragraphs 1 through 85 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 87. Defendants Speight, Epic, Microsoft, Microsoft Studios, and The Coalition knew that the likeness and image (including, for example, such features as a derby hat and wrist cuffs) used for the avatar Augustus "Cole Train" Cole was not Lester Speight, but a different person.
- 88. Defendants Speight, Epic, Microsoft, Microsoft Studios, and The Coalition knew that the likeness and image (including, for example, such features as a derby hat and wrist cuffs) used for the avatar Augustus "Cole Train" Cole was not Lester Speight, but Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton.
- 89. Defendants Speight, Epic, Microsoft, Microsoft Studios, and The Coalition knew that the voiceover used for the avatar Augustus "Cole Train" Cole was not Lester Speight, but a different person.
- 90. Defendants Speight, Epic, Microsoft, Microsoft Studios, and The Coalition knew that the voiceover used for the avatar Augustus "Cole Train" Cole was Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton, or a Hamilton "sound-alike."
- 91. Defendants Speight, Epic, Microsoft, Microsoft Studios, and The Coalition never requested or obtained written consent (or any consent) from Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton to use his likeness, image or voice in the Gears of War video game series, or in advertisements to promote merchandise such as the Xbox One console, and items of paraphernalia and memorabilia.

- 92. The likeness, image and voice of Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton have commercial value in that Hamilton invested time, effort and money to promote his own persona as a professional football player, professional wrestler, public speaker, and operator of Soul City Wrestling, Inc., Soul City Mentoring, and related companies.
- 93. The conduct of the defendants in misappropriating the likeness, image and voice of Plaintiff Hamilton was outrageous and inexcusable, justifying punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton demands an accounting of damages, including a proportional percentage of the profits from the sales of the Gears of War video game series, and merchandise such as the XBox One console, a reasonable royalty (past and future), plus punitive damages, plus costs of suit, and such other relief as the Court deems just under the circumstances.

## COUNT II - LANHAM ACT, § 43(a)(1)(A), 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(A) - FALSE DESCRIPTION, AND DECEPTION AS TO AFFILIATION, CONNECTION, ASSOCIATION, SPONSORSHIP AND/OR APPROVAL OR ENDORSEMENT

- 94. The averments of Paragraphs 1 through 93 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 95. The Defendants, in connection with the advertising, promotion and sale of the Gears of War video game series in the United States and abroad, and merchandise such as the Xbox One Console and items of Gears

of War paraphernalia and memorabilia, used the likeness, image, accoutrements, and voice of Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton, and falsely portrayed that it was the likeness, image and voice of Lester Speight, and Defendants' such actions were thus likely to cause confusion and mistake and to deceive the public as to the real actor's identity of the avatar Augustus "Cole Train" Cole, and/or mislead as to affiliation, connection, association, sponsorship and/or approval or endorsement.

96. Plaintiff is entitled under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) to recover defendants' profits, a reasonable royalty (past and future), and costs of this action; the Court may treble the damages, if appropriate, and the Court may find that this is an exceptional case and award attorney's fees to Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton demands an accounting of damages, including a proportional percentage of the profits from the sales of the Gears of War video game series, and merchandise such as the XBox One console, a reasonable royalty (past and future), treble damages, costs of suit, attorney's fees, and such other relief as the Court deems just under the circumstances.

### **COUNT III - UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

97. The averments of Paragraphs 1 through 96 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

- 98. By using the likeness, image, accourrements and voice of Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton, Defendants have been unjustly enriched to the substantial detriment of Plaintiff Hamilton.
- 99. Defendants have retained the benefits under such circumstances as make it unjust and inequitable to retain them without paying Plaintiff
  Lenwood Hamilton the value of the benefits they unjustly acquired.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against Defendants, together with an award of all compensatory damages, including a proportional percentage of the profits from the sales of the Gears of War video game series, and merchandise such as the XBox One console, a reasonable royalty (past and future), costs and such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

## **COUNT IV - MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLICITY**

- 100. The averments of Paragraphs 1 through 99 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 101. Defendants have used and appropriated Plaintiff Hamilton's valuable likeness, image, voice and accourrements, without authorization, and for their own commercial advantage, in violation of his common law right of publicity.

102. The conduct of the defendants in misappropriating the likeness, image, voice and accourrements of Plaintiff Hamilton was outrageous and inexcusable, justifying punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton demands an accounting of all damages, including a proportional percentage of the profits from the sales of the Gears of War video game series, and merchandise such as the XBox One console, a reasonable royalty (past and future), plus punitive damages, plus costs of suit, and such other relief as the Court deems just under the circumstances.

# COUNT V - INVASION OF PRIVACY BY MISAPPROPRIATION OF IDENTITY

- 103. The averments of Paragraphs 1 through 102 above are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 104. Defendants have used and appropriated Plaintiff Hamilton's valuable likeness, image, voice and accourrements, without authorization, and for their own commercial advantage, in violation of his common law right of privacy.
- 105. The conduct of the defendants in misappropriating the likeness, image, voice, and accourrements of Plaintiff Hamilton was outrageous and inexcusable, justifying punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton demands an accounting of all damages, including a proportional percentage of the profits from the sales of the Gears of War video game series, and merchandise such as the XBox One

console, a reasonable royalty (past and future), plus punitive damages, plus costs of suit, and such other relief as the Court deems just under the circumstances.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

106. Plaintiff demands a jury for all issues triable to a jury.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Chasan, Esq. (Atty. I.D. No. 29227)

uce Chasan

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Attorney for Plaintiff Lenwood Hamilton

Dated: April 14, 2017