

1 JEAN-PAUL JASSY, Cal. Bar No. 205513
2 JEFFREY A. PAYNE, Cal Bar No. 279034
3 AMANDA A. HARRIS, Cal Bar No. 353438
4 **JASSY VICK CAROLAN LLP**
5 355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 2450
6 Los Angeles, California 90071
7 Telephone: 310-870-7048
8 Facsimile: 310-870-7010

9 Attorneys for Defendants

10 Hulu, LLC; 3 Arts Entertainment, LLC;
11 “KoMut Productions”; and 20th Television, Inc.
12 (erroneously sued as “Fox Television”)

13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
14 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

15 JOHN TRAPPER,

16 Plaintiff,

17 vs.

18 HULU, LLC, a Delaware limited liability
19 company; 3 ARTS ENTERTAINMENT,
20 LLC, a California limited liability company;
21 FOX TELEVISION, and KOMUT
22 PRODUCTIONS, LESLIE KOLINS
23 SMALL, an individual; and DOES 1 through
24 20, inclusive,

25 Defendants.

Case No. 25STCV22973

Assigned to Hon. Robert B. Broadbelt
Department 53

**DECLARATION OF MAX MUTCHNICK IN
SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS HULU, LLC; 3
ARTS ENTERTAINMENT, LLC; “KOMUT
PRODUCTIONS”; AND 20TH TELEVISION,
INC.’S SPECIAL MOTION TO STRIKE
COMPLAINT UNDER C.C.P. § 425.16**

Hearing Date: February 19, 2026
Time: 10:00am
Department: 53

Reservation ID: 435470530033

DECLARATION OF MAX MUTCHNICK

I, Jason Nidorf “Max” Mutchnick, declare and state as follows:

1. The facts I state below are true of my own personal knowledge, except for matters stated on information and belief, which I am informed and believe to be true. I submit this declaration in support of Defendants’ Notice of Motion and Special Motion to Strike Complaint under Code of Civil Procedure § 425.16. If called upon as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the contents of this declaration.

2. I am the co-creator and an executive producer of the Hulu series *Mid-Century Modern*.

3. I have worked in the entertainment industry since the early 1990s, when I began as a writer on *The Dennis Miller Show*.

4. Since that time I have worked as a writer and showrunner across numerous projects, including *Will & Grace*, which I co-created with my writing partner, David Kohan. I believe that *Will & Grace* was notable for its early portrayal of gay men on television.

5. Mr. Kohan and I created *Mid-Century Modern*, wrote the pilot script, and served as co-showrunners and executive producers on the series. The series is a multi-camera sitcom that tells the story of three gay men living together in Palm Springs.

6. Mr. Kohan and I agreed to work on a script together while the members of the Writers Guild of America were on strike in 2023. As part of those discussions, we revisited a script we had written ten years prior called *Senioritis* that studio executives had originally rejected in approximately 2015. *Senioritis* told the story of senior citizens living together in a senior care facility who discover that their later years resembled their high school experience. Mr. Kohan and I discussed how much we enjoyed writing for older people, which led to a conversation about my older friends. In discussing these friends, we speculated as to what their lives would have been like if they had not found partners and had children. These brainstorming discussions led us to developing a group of characters who had created a “de facto” family of chosen friends. The pilot episode of *Mid-Century Modern* emerged from these discussions.

1 7. I do not know Plaintiff John Trapper. I have never met with, spoken to, corresponded
2 with, or communicated in any manner with Mr. Trapper. Prior to learning about this lawsuit, I had
3 never heard of Mr. Trapper.

4 8. During my work on *Mid-Century Modern*, I did not see, receive, view, read,
5 reference, copy, or use any scripts, character descriptions, or any other materials or ideas by
6 Mr. Trapper, including anything related to a project called *Rainbow Estates*. Prior to learning of this
7 lawsuit, I never knew that any such materials or ideas existed and had never seen the materials or
8 ideas alleged in Mr. Trapper’s complaint.

9 9. At no time while I was creating, developing, writing, or producing *Mid-Century*
10 *Modern* did anyone mention to me the existence of any materials or ideas by Mr. Trapper, or
11 otherwise suggest that they knew anything about the contents of any such materials or ideas by him.

12 10. I also do not know Leslie Kolins Small. Ms. Small was not involved in the
13 development or production of *Mid-Century Modern* in any fashion, and I have no recollection of
14 ever meeting with, speaking to, corresponding with, or communicating in any manner with Ms.
15 Small. Nor have I ever seen, received, viewed, read, referenced, copied, or used any materials or
16 ideas originating directly or indirectly from Ms. Small, including any materials or ideas for a project
17 called *Rainbow Estates*.

18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United
19 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October 9, 2025 in Los Angeles, CA.

Signed by:
Max Mutchnick
D23C51D5486049B...

MAX MUTCHNICK

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1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

3 I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of
4 eighteen years and not a party to this action. My business address is 355 S. Grand Ave., Suite
5 2450, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

6 On October 9, 2025, I served a true copy of the following document described as:

7 **DECLARATION OF MAX MUTCHNICK IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS HULU, LLC;
8 3 ARTS ENTERTAINMENT, LLC; “KOMUT PRODUCTIONS”; AND 20TH
9 TELEVISION, INC.’S SPECIAL MOTION TO STRIKE COMPLAINT UNDER C.C.P. §
10 425.16**

11 on the interested party in this action as follows:

12 John Trapper
13 612 River Road, Suite 319
14 North Tonawanda, NY 14120
15 Email: john@widestaneproductions.com; playrite2000@aol.com

16 **BY FEDERAL EXPRESS OVERNIGHT DELIVERY:** I enclosed said
17 document in an envelope or package provided by FedEx and addressed to the person at the address
18 listed above. I placed the envelope or package for collection and overnight delivery at an office or
19 a regularly utilized drop box of FedEx.

20 **BY ELECTRONIC MAIL (E-MAIL):** I caused the said document to be
21 transmitted by e-mail to the person at the email addresses listed above. I did not receive, within a
22 reasonable time, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was
23 unsuccessful.

24 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is
25 true and correct.

26 Executed on October 9, 2025, at Los Angeles County, California.

27 

28 _____
Marlene Rios



Court Reservation Receipt

Reservation

Reservation ID:
435470530033

Status:
RESERVED

Reservation Type:
Special Motion to Strike under CCP Section 425.16
(Anti-SLAPP motion)

Number of Motions:
1

Case Number:
25STCV22973

Case Title:
JOHN TRAPPER vs HULU LLC

Filing Party:
Hulu LLC, a Delaware limited liability (Defendant)

Location:
Stanley Mosk Courthouse - Department 53

Date/Time:
February 19th 2026, 10:00AM

Confirmation Code:
CR-7FBNMGYDHCUQRE98Z

Fees

Description	Fee	Qty	Amount
Special Motion to Strike under CCP Section 425.16 (Anti-SLAPP motion)	0.00	1	0.00
TOTAL			\$0.00

Payment

Amount:
\$0.00

Type:
NOFEE

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