**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 5, 2018**

**ADAM SHACKNAI ATTORNEY DAN WEBB’S**

**STATEMENT ON RUNAWAY JURY VERDICT**

We were absolutely astonished by the jury’s outrageous verdict in this case, and plan to appeal. This lawsuit was frivolous and reckless from the very beginning, and never should have been allowed to proceed to trial. Plaintiffs admitted under oath that they filed this lawsuit without any proof, later dismissed two defendants they had wrongly accused as murderers, and ultimately fixated on Adam because they came to believe he was, in their words, “smart,” and knew how to tie a common knot known to millions. In my entire 40-year legal career, I have never seen such a catastrophic manipulation and failure of our court system.

The unusual manner of suicide, the intensely sensationalized tabloid media coverage over the last seven years, and Keith Greer’s inflammatory behavior throughout the case – both in and out of court – plainly affected the impartiality of this jury and deprived Adam of a fair trial. Multiple jurors stated prior to trial that they followed the media circus outside of court, and even admitted to forming preconceived views that Rebecca did not commit suicide. On top of that, plaintiffs’ grotesque trial stunts like bringing a custom-ordered sex doll with an exact likeness of Rebecca’s face into the courtroom, and hanging her naked body from a makeshift scaffold in front of the jury, was so vile and wildly prejudicial that it should never have been allowed to occur.

The media firestorm that contaminated the jury, the plaintiffs’ countless ever-changing theories, and most importantly the complete lack of credible evidence connecting Adam to anything having to do with Rebecca’s death, all created a mountain of serious judicial errors. After being dismissed four times for lack of evidence prior to trial, the case should never have been allowed to be presented to a jury, where emotion and innuendo predictably overwhelmed the actual facts. We are confident that this preposterous verdict will be reversed on appeal.

Multiple county and statewide law enforcement agencies long ago unequivocally determined that Adam Shacknai had nothing whatsoever to do with the death of Rebecca Zahau. Nothing about this irrational verdict changes those conclusions, which the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department yesterday again confirmed, based on all the forensic evidence and medical examinations. After six weeks of testimony during this trial, not one shred of credible evidence was produced to suggest that Adam was involved in any way. I challenge the Zahau family and their lawyer to accept the Sheriff’s invitation to share one speck of evidence having anything whatsoever to do with my client. Adam did nothing here except travel across the country to lovingly support his brother and his nephew in their moment of need, and found himself in the unimaginable position of finding Rebecca’s body, cutting her down, calling 911 and attempting to resuscitate her.

The fatal fall of Max Shacknai and suicide of Rebecca Zahau in 2011 were hideous losses that changed both families’ lives forever. It is clear the Zahau family desperately wanted to place blame after such an inexplicable tragedy. But falsely accusing an innocent man of murder, without a shred of credible evidence, did nothing to advance the pursuit of justice, nor to honor the memory of Max and Rebecca. Instead, the fabricated allegations against Adam, and the emotional jury response they provoked, only add another appalling human tragedy to this already horrible situation.

**Contact:**

**Tammy Taylor (****tammy\_taylor@sitrick.com****)**

**Terry Fahn (****terry\_fahn@sitrick.com****)**

**Sitrick And Company**

**(310) 788-2850**