

Narrative for PPO:

I need a personal protection order from Mr. Andrew Shirvell because since April of this year he has been following-me throughout U of M's campus and Ann Arbor unnecessarily, blogging about me extensively using bias and bigotry and poses a threat to my own personal safety. I first learned of Mr. Shirvell when he created a Facebook group named "U of M Alumni and others Against Chris Armstrong and His Radical MSA Agenda" in March of 2010, shortly after I was elected President. The group attacked me primarily for being gay and said things about my family and my life that weren't true, calling me a militant-homosexual and anti-christian. A friend of mine, who is the current President of Students for Life, a position that Mr. Shirvell held while he was an undergraduate on campus, warned me of Mr. Shirvell in advance as someone who was going to cause me trouble. I didn't know at the time the extent to which that would be. Right after I was elected as President of MSA in Spring 2010, I gained a lot of press because I was the first openly gay Student Body President at the University of Michigan. One thing I noticed during this time was that nearly all of the articles had comments that spewed the exact same rhetoric that Mr. Shirvell was promoting in his blog.

My first physical interaction with Mr. Shirvell was when he came to a counter-protest rally of the Laramie Project that was being hosted on May 1st by the Stonewall Democrats at the University of Michigan on North Campus. The counter-protest rally was hosted in anticipation of the Westboro Baptist Church coming to protest the show. I was invited to speak at the event and when I got up to speak, he heckled me at the end of the speech asking me about Order of Angell, a U of M registered student organization I chose to join at the end of my senior year. I finished my speech and he began taking pictures of me and took out a sign that said "Chris Armstrong MSA President = Liar, Order of Angell = KKK". The sign also had a swastika over a rainbow flag

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superimposed over my face. This made me feel incredibly uncomfortable and personally attacked for not just the things he was saying about me, but also the intense bias and bigotry he was promoting. He stayed at the event the entire time following me wherever I went and asking me at certain points what my grandmother would think and calling me a racist. After that, his Facebook group was taken down because it violated Facebook policies and he began a personal blog called chrisarmstrongwatch.blogspot.com that called me a racist and a militant homosexual very similar to what had been on the Facebook group. He created and also posted flyers around campus advertising his blog, saying that "This is why you should be afraid of your MSA President". This flyer distribution included posting of the materials on the MSA Office door, which is where I work, and in other restricted areas of the campus including the Fishbowl, Angell Hall, and Mason Hall. Later on, on June 4th, my friend Ashley called me to tell me that she had gone out to celebrate for the birthday for our mutual friend Matthew. She explained Mr. Shirvell had been following them around several Ann Arbor establishments that night with the intention of seeing me with them was going to see me with them. Ashley and her friends had a heated discussion with Shirvell and then he left them alone. Ashley called me after upset. Shirvell also contacted a friend of mine, James, via email advertising his blog after James had posted on my Facebook wall asking about my internship.

I left Ann Arbor for Washington, DC on June 19 for an internship with the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's office. Within three weeks after I arrived in DC he blogged about my internship with Pelosi's office. It was unclear how he attained information about my internship, and it continued to be unclear how he was getting screenshots of my Facebook even though I had upgraded my privacy settings and had blocked him. Shirvell called my internship office twice, once talking to one of the staff and once speaking to my internship coordinator Tom. Shirvell

asked Tom if he knew if I was a racist and if I had affiliation with Order of Angell when they hired me. Tom assured me not to be concerned about my position with the internship at the office, and proceeded to notify internship staff to deny Shirvell's harassing calls. I was told a few other times throughout my internship in DC that he called the office additional times.

During the same time, back in Ann Arbor, he protested me outside of Necto, an Ann Arbor nightclub, on a Friday night, which is usually Pride Night. During this time, Shirvell asked one of the club bouncers and several people in line about my friend Mical, and that he was looking for her. Mical went outside to address the person she was told was looking for her. Shirvell then got into a discussion with Mical and Brad, a mutual friend of Mical's and mine. In their conversation Shirvell told them he knew who they were and that they were friends with me. Shirvell told Mical that he knew where she lived and threatened to show up at her house when she had a party in the next week or so. She conveyed to Mr. Shirvell that she would not want him to be at her residence.

Throughout the summer, there would be posts on the blog alleging many false and exaggerated things about my life and those close to me, including my family and friends. On the blog, he would have pictures of my father and me that would say in red writing "Dumb, and Dumber", and he would say that my Dad is a corporate lawyer, and that neither I nor my Mom have ever had to work a day in my life, which isn't true. In all honesty, my mother has worked every since she graduated from college, and put my father through law school. Shirvell also has alleged that MSA Vice President, Jason Raymond, is gay and that he is my secret lover. Shirvell has said that another good friend John is gay, and that I hosted an "orgy" at my home last October 2009, all of which are completely untrue.

On Saturday September 4th, he showed up at a party that my house and housemates were hosting. Since my friends were aware of the situation with Shirvell, they decided to not put my

name on the Facebook event advertising the party to our friends, so that there would be no link to me and my name on the Facebook event. Shirvell still, however, found out about the party and showed up late at night, around 1:30am. The police came to our house around the same time to inform us that we had received a call about the noise at the party. The police were very cordial when telling us that we had to ask everyone to leave, and told us they were concerned with the man who was outside my house taking pictures of the party. Many of my friends saw Shirvell outside the house, and told me that it was him who was taking pictures of my house. On Monday, September 6th, which was big day for my organization the Michigan Student Assembly since we were hosting many events for welcome week. Mr. Shirvell showed up outside my house and began protesting me, with his sign that said "Chris Armstrong Watch" and had my face with "racist" and "liar" written across my face. It also had the same picture of a swastika superimposed on my face. One of my roommates called 911 and the Ann Arbor Police came to my house and talked to my roommates. At that point, I called Anika, the MSA Program Manager and Advisor and U of M Staff, and asked for her advice. Anika instructed me to call the U of M Department of Public Safety and they came to my house and escorted me to the first event MSA was hosting, which was Gayz Craze. Shirvell also picketed outside the Michigan League that day because MSA was helping out with the Division of Student Affairs Sponsored event Day of Change. After I set up for Gayz Craze, the event began and we discovered that Shirvell was on the event grounds. He stayed the entirety of the event, approaching multiple resource tables designed to be supportive for gay students coming to campus. He engaged repeatedly with people defaming my character and interrupting the supportive atmosphere the event was meant to engender. Later that day, Shirvell showed up at another event that was being hosted by MSA and the Residence Halls Association called Pre-Clash Bash. I was helping out with the event along with members of the

Residence Halls Association. The University of Michigan Department of Rec Sports informed me that they were going to ask the Department of Public Safety to ask him to leave since the event was closed for U of M students. Later on I was informed by one of my roommates that Shirvell showed up at my house again.

Finally, this past Tuesday Shirvell came to the Michigan Student Assembly weekly meeting to speak to the Assembly about his views concerning me. The content of his presentation centered around asking me to resign or the Michigan Student Assembly to impeach me. One of my friends Brian spoke to him afterwards, and Mr. Shirvell said to him he was going to keep coming to MSA meetings until I resigned.

The actions that Mr. Shirvell has taken against me over the past 4 months have been incredibly distressing. If it were University of Michigan students or administrators who were taking these actions it would be a very different conversation since my position is to serve the currently enrolled University of Michigan students. However, since he isn't a student his actions are concerning and make me feel unsure about my own safety. As a student it has also been incredibly hurtful and distressing to see his actions, since I came to the University of Michigan knowing that it was a safe and encouraging place for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, which is something I have always tried to promote in my role on student government. His actions have not only threatened that, but have been an outright attack on my ability to live my life openly and be honest about who I am.