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7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
8 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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10 MICHAEL A. MINOVITCH,) Case No. BC 224528
11 an individual,)
12 Plaintiff,)
13 v.) VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR:
14 RICHARD H. BATTIN,) 1. LIBEL,
an individual, and) 2. SLANDER OF TITLE,
15 DOES 1 through 20,) 3. INTERFERENCE WITH PROSPECTIVE
inclusive,) ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE,
16 Defendants.) 4. MISAPPROPRIATION OF RIGHT OF
PUBLICITY
17) 5. UNFAIR COMPETITION AND
6. DECLARATORY RELIEF

18 Plaintiff Michael A. Minovitch ("Minovitch") alleges as
19 follows:

20 1. Minovitch is an individual resident in the County of Los
21 Angeles.

22 2. Defendant Richard H. Battin ("Battin") is an individual
23 resident in the State of Massachusetts, but who has been doing
24 business in the State of California by way of having written and
25 seeking to have published two articles and a book which have been
26 published and disseminated throughout the Country and overseas,
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1 including in California. As discussed in detail below, the
2 contents of these publications are the subject of this action.

3 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate,
4 or otherwise, of defendants named herein as Does 1 through 20,
5 inclusive, are presently unknown to Minovitch, who therefore sues
6 these defendants by such fictitious names. Minovitch is informed
7 and believes that these fictitiously named defendants are in some
8 manner responsible for the events and happenings referred to
9 herein and caused the damage to Minovitch alleged herein. When
10 Minovitch ascertains the true names and capacities of these
11 defendants, he will seek leave of this Court to amend this
12 complaint by setting forth same.

13 4. At all times mentioned herein, each of the defendants was
14 and is the agent, servant, partner and or employee of the other
15 defendants, and all of the things alleged to have been done by
16 said defendants was done in the capacity of, and as agent of, the
17 other defendants.

18 KEY UNDERLYING FACTS

19 5. This complaint¹ pertains to Dr. Michael A. Minovitch's
20 proprietary right to his discovery of a new method for achieving
21 free-fall multiplanetary trajectories with relatively little
22 launch energy by utilizing the gravitational perturbations of
23 each passing planet as a propulsive force (a "gravity-assist") to
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25 ¹ The titles of the exhibits to the complaint are listed in
26 order in a table attached to the end of the complaint. The
27 exhibits themselves are filed separately as two documents
entitled "Exhibits to Complaint", Volume 1 and Volume 2.

1 achieve a significant change in the initial launch trajectory.
2 Previous to this discovery, free-fall multiplanetary trajectories
3 were designed by finding a constant elliptical path that passed
4 close to the orbits of two or more planets just as these planets
5 were passing by. The effects of planetary perturbations were
6 viewed as annoying disturbances that had to be canceled out, or
7 eliminated, to maintain the original launch trajectory in order
8 to achieve the desired planetary encounters.^{2,3} As a result, free
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10 ² The first free-fall multiplanetary trajectory was proposed
11 in 1956 by Crocco. It was based on an encounter sequence
12 Earth - Mars - Venus - Earth designed by using the stronger
13 gravitational influence of Venus to cancel out the effects
14 of the weaker gravitational influence of Mars so that the
15 resulting trajectory was close to the original undisturbed
16 elliptical path. Quoting directly from the abstract of
17 Crocco's paper (Exhibit 1):

18 "First of all, the case with no
19 planetary perturbations is taken into
20 consideration, and a possible ideal
21 solution is determined. Subsequently,
22 the perturbation due to Mars by passing
23 at a short distance from it is
24 introduced and the delay attained
25 thereto in the trip time is computed.
26 Then, the perturbation due to Venus is
27 examined, and requirements of flights at
28 a short distance are determined capable
of correcting the perturbation due Mars.

21 ³ Quoting from Section 9.9 on the design of multiplanetary
22 trajectories entitled "Interplanetary Flight Involving
23 Several Planets," from Dr. Krafft Ehricke's 1962 textbook on
24 astrodynamics, *Space Flight II, Dynamics* (Exhibit 2):

25 "Perturbations by the planetary
26 encounter are assumed to be corrected,
27 preferably while nearest to the planet
28 so that a heliocentric ellipse closely
resembling the original ellipse is
resumed by the time the vehicle is
sufficiently removed from the planet."

1 fall multiplanetary trajectories left the earth's orbit at a
2 fairly steep angle and required so much launch energy that they
3 were beyond the reach of chemical rocket propulsion and believed
4 to be impractical.⁴ Minovitch's discovery (hereinafter referred
5 to as "the Discovery") is fundamentally important in the history
6 of space travel because it represented a new method for achieving
7 high velocity space travel from planet to planet throughout the
8 entire solar system without using essentially any rocket
9 propulsion beyond the relatively small amount required to reach
10 the first planet. It was the innovation that made it possible to
11 explore the entire solar system with instrumented spacecraft.
12 The Discovery also made it possible to achieve non-stop round-
13 trip reconnaissance missions to Mars with a trip-time of a little
14 more than one year. Previous to the Discovery it was believed

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16 ⁴ Quoting directly from Section 5 on the design of free-fall
17 multiplanetary fly-by trajectories connecting Earth, Mars
18 and Venus published in a 180 page "Final Report" on
interplanetary round-trip trajectories written for NASA by
10 leading astrodynamists completed June 1962 (Exhibit 3):

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"At the outset, we are confronted with a
paradox: Low-energy transfers to Mars
seldom dip appreciably within the
Earth's orbit while, on the other hand,
low-energy transfers to Venus rarely
stray outside the Earth's orbit. These
contradictions make it painfully
apparent that the trips presently sought
will not likely be found among low-
energy transfer orbits. Nevertheless,
the problem is worth considering not
only as an interesting academic pastime,
but also because the velocity
requirements required in some cases may
actually be attainable using presently
envisioned nuclear power plants."

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1 that round-trip reconnaissance missions to Mars required a trip
2 time of over three years.

3 Prior to the Discovery, it was believed that the only
4 technical means for achieving high velocity space travel required
5 to explore the entire solar system with instrumented spacecraft
6 was by developing advanced nuclear-thermal or nuclear-electric
7 propulsion systems.^{5,6} Unfortunately, by the mid-1960s it became
8 apparent that these systems were beyond engineering feasibility
9 and consequently, the exploration of most of the solar system
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11 ⁵ Quoting directly from a 1958 paper published by Professor
12 Derek Lawden (one of the world's leading theoretical
13 astrodynamacists) entitled, "Interplanetary Orbits" (Exhibit
14 4):

14 "The periods of transit for transfers between
15 the Earth and the outer planets are so great
16 that the cotangential ellipse is unlikely
17 ever to be employed for this purpose.
18 Instead, non-optimal paths involving larger
19 characteristic velocities but shorter periods
20 of transit will have to be followed and,
21 until much higher exhaust velocities become
22 available (e.g., by the harnessing of nuclear
23 energy for rocket motor drives), such
24 journeys will not be possible."

25 ⁶ Caltech professor and JPL founder Dr. Theodore von Karman
26 was another leading figure in astronautics and propulsion
27 technology. He was one of the most technically qualified
28 individuals in the field of space travel. After studying
the high-energy requirements for reaching most of the Solar
System with instrumented spacecraft for several years, he
concluded in 1962 (page 4, Exhibit 5) that:

"It is evident that if we exclude additional
propulsion along the trajectory, most of the
interplanetary space missions require initial
velocities which we are unable to realize by
the use of chemical rockets."

1 appeared to be a technical impossibility. The Discovery made it
2 possible to achieve the very high velocities required for
3 exploring the entire solar system without using any onboard
4 reaction propulsion (i.e., without using any advanced nuclear
5 propulsion systems). The energy required to achieve these high
6 velocities was taken from the inexhaustible orbital energies of
7 the various planets. The Discovery is known generally as
8 "gravity-assist trajectories," "swingby trajectories," or "bi-
9 elliptical trajectories."

10 6. Basically, the Discovery involved launching a free-fall
11 spacecraft to an easy-to-reach nearby planet using relatively
12 little conventional rocket propulsion, and using the
13 gravitational influence of that planet to change the initial
14 launch trajectory thereby enabling the spacecraft to reach one or
15 more additional planets without using any additional rocket
16 propulsion by repeating the same process. This innovation
17 resulted in radically reducing trip times, and/or the minimum
18 launch energies previously believed to be required for non-stop
19 round-trip trajectories to Mars and for reaching most of the
20 planets in the solar system. Such a breakthrough in space travel
21 was believed to be a physical impossibility because it was
22 contrary to the very foundation of astrodynamics and Hohmann
23 "minimum-energy" trajectories that space travel was based on
24 since its inception. It was the key innovation that broke the
25 classical high-energy barriers and made it possible to explore
26 the entire solar system with instrumented spacecraft.

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1 7. Minovitch was the first person to make the Discovery. His
2 paper disclosing the innovation entitled, "A Method for
3 *Determining Interplanetary Free-Fall Reconnaissance*
4 *Trajectories*," was completed on August 23, 1961 as Jet Propulsion
5 Laboratory Technical Memorandum #312-130. (Exhibit 6) On pages
6 38-44, Minovitch described the mathematical details for achieving
7 this new method of space travel for reaching any planet in the
8 solar system and illustrated the method with an example
9 trajectory **Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth-Saturn-Pluto-Jupiter-Earth**. It
10 was a form of "celestial billiards." This was the first
11 documented paper disclosing this new concept for achieving space
12 travel throughout the solar system without rocket propulsion.

13 8. While the first free-fall multiplanetary trajectory was
14 proposed in 1956 by Crocco, Crocco's multiplanetary trajectory
15 was not a gravity-assist free-fall multiplanetary trajectory
16 achieved by using the planetary gravitational fields to change
17 the initial launch trajectory thereby reducing the required
18 launch energy. As a result, the required launch energy was
19 enormous, and hence, the multiplanetary trajectory was regarded
20 as impractical. (See footnote 4.)

21 9. The first portion of the example gravity-assist free-fall
22 multiplanetary trajectory given on page 39 of Minovitch's August
23 23, 1961 JPL paper had the encounter sequence **Earth-Venus-Mars-**
24 **Earth**. It was the counterpart of Crocco's multiplanetary
25 trajectory with Mars and Venus switched in the encounter
26 sequence. By switching Mars and Venus in the encounter sequence
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1 and using Minovitch's Discovery of gravity-assist multiplanetary
2 trajectories based on changing the launch trajectory, it was
3 possible to achieve a round-trip multiplanetary trajectory
4 passing Venus and Mars with approximately the same one-year trip
5 time but with only 1/10th the launch energy required for Crocco's
6 multiplanetary trajectory thereby making the trajectory a
7 practical possibility. Since Minovitch's August 23, 1961 paper
8 was the first documented paper describing how planetary
9 gravitational perturbations could be used to achieve free-fall
10 multiplanetary trajectories with very little launch energy by
11 changing the initial launch trajectory, he is the person who
12 originated gravity-assist free-fall multiplanetary trajectories
13 commonly known as "gravity-assist trajectories" or "swing-by
14 trajectories."

15 10. In 1964, Battin published a book entitled *Astronautical*
16 *Guidance* and described the fundamental difference between
17 Crocco's free-fall Earth-Mars-Venus-Earth multiplanetary
18 trajectory based on a constant elliptical path and a gravity-
19 assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth multiplanetary trajectory (using
20 the gravitational influence of Venus to change the launch
21 trajectory) on page 185 by writing (Exhibit 7):

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23 "The double reconnaissance mission [free-fall
24 multiplanetary trajectory] discussed at the
25 end of Sec. 5.4 was originally suggested by
26 Crocco (19). Unfortunately, the Crocco
27 mission [Earth-Mars-Venus-Earth] requires an
excess hyperbolic velocity exceeding 38,000
fps owing principally to the fact that Mars
was selected as the first planet to be

1 visited. If the order is reversed and the
2 gravitational field of Venus exploited, the
3 mission can be accomplished with an excess
4 velocity of only 15,000 fps."

4 Thus, as described by Battin himself in 1964, the gravity-assist
5 free-fall multiplanetary trajectory (Minovitch's gravity-assist
6 version of Crocco's trajectory) having the encounter sequence
7 Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth was fundamentally different from Crocco's
8 trajectory (a constant elliptical path) having the encounter
9 sequence Earth-Mars-Venus-Earth with no gravity-assist. It is
10 important to note that Battin did not claim to have discovered or
11 originated the gravity-assist multiplanetary trajectory Earth-
12 Venus-Mars-Earth in 1964 when he published this book even though
13 this trajectory represented a revolutionary discovery because it
14 reduced the required launch energy to only 1/10th required for
15 Crocco's trajectory.

16 11. However, after waiting for 30 years, Battin wrote a paper
17 in 1994 claiming that he made the Discovery. The paper was
18 entitled "*On Algebraic Compilers and Planetary Fly-By Orbits*,"
19 and it was published by the International Astronautical
20 Federation. (Exhibit 8) Therein, Battin claimed the credit for
21 first discovering gravity-assist free-fall Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
22 multiplanetary trajectories from alleged computer calculations
23 dated January 26, 1961, several months prior to Minovitch's
24 August 23, 1961 JPL paper that introduced his discovery of
25 gravity-assist multiplanetary trajectories. Battin's published
26 statement claiming the credit for the discovery is given in the
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1 footnote below.⁷

2 Battin reiterated his claim of discovering this trajectory
3 on January 26, 1961 by enlarging and re-publishing his 1994 paper
4 in one of the world's most prestigious archival aerospace
5 journals, *Acta Astronautica*, in 1996. (See p. 900 of the 1996
6 article. Exhibit 9)

7 Further, again in 1999, Battin published a revised edition
8 of his 1987 textbook entitled, *An Introduction to the Mathematics*
9 *and Methods of Astrodynamics*, and repeated his claim of being the
10 first person to have discovered gravity-assist free-fall Earth-

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12 ⁷ Quoting directly from page 6 of Battin's 1994 paper:

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"It was very exciting indeed when the double flyby [Earth - Venus - Mars - Earth] finally worked." ... "I sensed the importance of this result and saved the tabulator listing which included the date of the printout - January 26, 1961. Today it is among my most treasured mementos." ... "Although this was the first realistic multiple flyby mission ever designed, it was not the first ever conceived. That distinction goes to General Gaetano Arturo Crocco who was Director of Research of the Air Ministry and a Professor of Aeronautics at the University of Rome, Italy. This paper described an Earth to Mars to Venus to Earth mission of one year duration. The orbits were all co-planar; the velocity requirements were enormous; and the reversed itinerary prevented the best utilization of the gravity assist maneuvers."

1 Venus-Mars-Earth multiplanetary trajectories.⁸

2 12. The foregoing claims by Battin contending that he was the
3 first person to make the discovery of gravity-assist free-fall
4 multiplanetary Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories are
5 categorically false, as evidenced by the following nine pieces of
6 evidence, referenced here as items A through I:

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8 ⁸ Quoting directly from page 17 of Battin's 1999 book:

9 "One day, when plotting a few of these
10 Venusian reconnaissance trajectories [Earth-
11 Venus-Earth], I was impressed by the
12 proximity of the spacecraft orbit and the
13 Martian orbit resulting from the increased
14 velocity induced during the Venusian flyby.
15 The interesting possibility of a dual contact
16 with both planets seemed feasible [Earth-
17 Venus-Mars-Earth] - a kind of celestial game
18 of billiards." ... "Using trusty "cut and
19 try" methods, I found that ideal
20 circumstances did prevail on June 9, 1972."
21 ... "(At that time, the launch date seemed
22 incredibly far off - twelve whole years!)"
23 ... "Although this was the first realistic
24 multiple flyby mission ever designed, it was
25 not the first ever conceived. That
26 distinction goes to General Gaetano Arturo
27 Crocco who was Director of Research of the
28 Air Ministry and a Professor of Aeronautics
at the University of Rome, Italy. This paper
described an Earth to Mars to Venus to Earth
mission of one year duration. The orbits
were all co-planar; the velocity requirements
were enormous; and the reversed itinerary
prevented the best utilization of the gravity
assist maneuvers."

23 In view of these passages published by Battin in his 1999
24 book, he claimed to have made the alleged discovery "twelve
25 whole years" prior to the June 9th, 1972 launch date, or
26 around June 1960 -- about a year prior to Minovitch's 1961
27 JPL paper.

1 A. Seventeen months after Battin supposedly made his alleged
2 revolutionary January 26, 1961 discovery showing how it was
3 possible to reduce the very long three-year trip times for round-
4 trip missions to Mars to only 1.26 years, by using gravity-assist
5 Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth multiplanetary trajectories, he submitted
6 a paper on round-trip non-stop trajectories to Mars and Venus in
7 June 1962. (Exhibit 11) This paper involved navigation procedures
8 for following the best round-trip trajectories to Mars and Venus
9 (the optimum trajectories to follow for obtaining the most
10 scientific information) which he identified by citing previous
11 investigations of round-trip trajectories at MIT (see page 1681
12 Exhibit 11). However, the trajectories cited in his 1962 article
13 were the usual single-planet Earth-Mars-Earth and Earth-Venus-
14 Earth trajectories where the Earth-Mars-Earth trajectories
15 required trip times exceeding three years.⁹ He made no mention
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17 ⁹ In 1959, Battin published a paper entitled "The
18 Determination of Round-Trip Planetary Reconnaissance
19 Trajectories." (Exhibit 12) Therein, he numerically proved
20 that minimum-energy nonstop round-trip trajectories to Mars
21 having the form Earth-Mars-Earth required trip times
22 exceeding three years duration and that these trip times
23 could not be reduced without significantly increasing the
24 required launch energy. (See p. 566 Exhibit 12) These very
25 long trip times were a serious problem because they made
26 nonstop manned reconnaissance missions to this planet
27 virtually impossible and made unmanned missions with
28 instrumented spacecraft very difficult. However, the
gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories which
Battin claimed to have discovered on January 26, 1961 only
required trip times of 1.26 years with approximately the
same launch energies. This was a revolutionary discovery
because Battin proved in his 1959 paper that round-trip
trajectories to Mars could not be reduced below three years.
Mars was the primary planet for exploration.

1 describing how these long trip-times can be reduced to only 1.26
2 years) by using his alleged 1961 discovery of gravity-assist
3 Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories that only required one-third
4 the trip times of Earth-Mars-Earth trajectories and offered the
5 additional spectacular possibility of passing both Mars and Venus
6 in the same mission -- effectively achieving two separate
7 missions for the price of one. (At that time, each separate
8 photo-reconnaissance mission to Mars and Venus would have cost
9 several hundred million dollars.) In Battin's 1994 and 1996
10 papers claiming the credit for the discovery he indicated that
11 this discovery was one of his most important and was very anxious
12 to publish it. (See page 6, 1994 article and page 900, 1996
13 article)¹⁰ Since Battin described his alleged January 1961
14 discovery as one of his most important and anxious to publish,
15 the fact that he made no mention of these revolutionary
16 trajectories in his 1962 paper on navigation for interplanetary
17 round-trip trajectories (where it would be most relevant to the
18 subject matter), proves that he was not aware of their existence
19 when he submitted this paper for publication in early June 1962 -
20 - 17 months after his alleged discovery in January 1961. It

21 _____
22 ¹⁰His exact words were:

23 "It was very exciting indeed when the double
24 fly-by finally worked." ... " I sensed the
25 importance of this result and saved the
26 tabulator listing which included the date of
27 the printout - January 26, 1961. Today it is
28 among my most treasured mementos." ...
"Needless to say, I was most anxious to
publish the result."

1 would be contrary to his own published statements to suggest that
2 he did not mention them in his June 1962 paper because he
3 believed they were unimportant or irrelevant. But this could be
4 the only answer if he really did make the discovery when he
5 claimed he did. Therefore, the existence of this 1962 paper
6 proves that he did not make the Discovery prior to the time he
7 submitted this paper for publication in June 1962.

8 B. Battin in fact indirectly learned about the Discovery
9 from Minovitch:

10 After Minovitch wrote his above-referenced paper, he began
11 the first numerical investigation of gravity-assist trajectories
12 at UCLA on January 18, 1962. (Exhibit 13) In April 1962,
13 Minovitch gave JPL several gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
14 trajectories for testing to determine if his numerical
15 computation of these trajectories represented a numerical
16 solution to the famous, then unsolved, Three-Body Problem of
17 celestial mechanics for motion through the solar system.
18 (Exhibits 14, 15) The tests were successful and indicated that
19 Minovitch's analytical methods represented the first numerical
20 solution to the unsolved Three-Body Problem of celestial
21 mechanics. A solution to this very difficult mathematical
22 problem was required in order to implement Minovitch's invention
23 of gravity-assist trajectories in an actual mission.

24 By the end of April 1962, Minovitch had computed thousands
25 of gravity-assist multiplanetary trajectories having the forms
26 Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth (round-trip), Earth-Venus-Mars, Earth-

1 Venus-Mercury and some preliminary trajectories involving the
2 outer planets. Since Minovitch recognized that these trajectories
3 would have a major impact on NASA's space exploration program, he
4 began shipping them to JPL. (Exhibit 16)

5 When Minovitch arrived at JPL in June 1962, he showed his
6 former supervisor Victor Clarke Jr. the most important gravity-
7 assist trajectories, including many Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
8 trajectories, requiring very low launch energies and trip times
9 much shorter than those of Battin's Earth-Mars-Earth
10 trajectories. (Exhibit 17) Minovitch emphasized this important
11 fact by comparing them with Battin's conventional single-planet
12 Earth-Mars-Earth round-trip trajectories requiring trip times
13 exceeding three years that he proved could not be reduced in his
14 1959 paper. (Exhibit 12) Clarke realized the importance of
15 Minovitch's discoveries and had his UCLA computer program used to
16 numerically calculate the gravity-assist multiplanetary
17 trajectories duplicated for JPL's Computing Facility. Clarke
18 gave special attention to the Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
19 trajectories. (See page 1 Exhibit 18.) Clarke told Minovitch
20 that his trajectories were indeed important and that he would
21 inform Battin -- who Clarke knew was working on round-trip
22 trajectories to Mars. (See pages 8, 10, 18, and 19 Exhibit 19.)
23 Since Clarke was the supervisor of JPL's trajectory group and
24 aware of new developments, he knew that Minovitch's work
25 represented a fundamentally new discovery in astrodynamics. If
26 Battin's claim of discovering the very important gravity-assist
27

1 Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories in January 1961 were true, he
2 would have communicated this fact to Clarke when Clarke informed
3 him of Minovitch's discoveries, and Clarke would have advised
4 Minovitch. Since Clarke never advised Minovitch regarding
5 Battin's alleged discovery, it can only be concluded that Battin
6 never told Clarke that he had discovered the gravity-assist
7 trajectories before Minovitch. Since there was no reason for
8 Battin to keep his claimed discovery a secret from Clarke, the
9 fact that he did not inform Clarke proves that he was not aware
10 of the existence of these trajectories when Clarke told him about
11 them in June 1962.

12 C. In May 1963, a graduate student in Battin's Department of
13 Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT named Walter Hollister
14 completed his Ph.D. dissertation involving interplanetary
15 transfer trajectories to Mars. The innovative basis of this
16 dissertation was Hollister's claim of originating a new
17 trajectory design concept that he called "bi-elliptical" transfer
18 trajectories to Mars having the form Earth-Venus-Mars. It was a
19 trajectory design method for reaching Mars by launching a free-
20 fall vehicle to Venus and letting the gravitational influence of
21 Venus propel the vehicle to Mars. Hollister explicitly claimed
22 credit for the innovation on page 7 of this dissertation by
23 stating (Exhibit 20):

24 "Because of the large volume of work on
25 different aspects of a mission to Mars it
26 would be impossible to make reference to all
27 of the literature on the subject. It should
no mention in the literature of the specific

1 missions suggested in this work, namely trips
2 to Mars via bi-elliptical transfer or via a
3 Venus encounter that includes a significant
4 velocity change near Venus."

4 The possibility of reaching Mars from Earth indirectly by
5 replacing a conventional direct-transfer Earth-Mars trajectory
6 with an indirect Earth-Venus-Mars trajectory (a "bi-elliptical"
7 trajectory) where the gravitational influence of Venus is used to
8 send the vehicle to Mars which Hollister explicitly claimed
9 credit for in this dissertation represented a revolutionary
10 innovation unheard of in astrodynamics in 1962 when Hollister
11 began working on his dissertation project. However, this is
12 exactly what Battin claimed to have been the first to discover in
13 January 1961 before Hollister. (The discovery of gravity-assist
14 Earth-Venus-Mars trajectories is implicit in the discovery of
15 gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth round-trip trajectories.
16 In fact, Earth-Venus-Mars trajectories represent the gravity-
17 assist portion of gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
18 trajectories because the perturbations from Mars is relatively
19 small.) Since the possibility that Battin kept his alleged
20 January 1961 discovery of gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
21 trajectories (and hence, gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars
22 trajectories) a secret from Hollister is absurd, Battin's claim
23 of being the first to discover these trajectories as claimed in
24 his 1994, 1996, and 1999 publications is false. The fact that
25 Battin's own Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT
26 recognized Hollister's claimed gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars
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1 innovation by approving his dissertation proves that Battin's
2 claim of being the first to discover gravity-assist Earth-Venus-
3 Mars-Earth (and hence Earth-Venus-Mars) gravity-assist
4 trajectories is false. The fact that Battin was aware of and
5 obviously acknowledged Hollister's claimed innovation is
6 demonstrated by the fact that Hollister explicitly identified
7 Battin as providing technical assistance in computing his claimed
8 bi-elliptical (gravity-assist) Earth-Venus-Mars trajectories.
9 (See pages iii and 71 of Hollister's Ph.D. Dissertation.)

10 Quoting directly from page iii of Hollister's Dissertation:

11 "The staff of the MIT Instrumentation
12 Laboratory has been extremely helpful. Dr.
13 Richard H. Battin, Dr. James S. Miller,
 Kenneth Fertig, and John L. Gropper have
 provided technical advice."

14 Since Battin recognized Hollister's claim of discovering
15 (originating) the innovation of gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars
16 trajectories in 1963, Battin's claim of being the first to
17 discover these trajectories (by virtue of having discovered
18 Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories) as he asserted in his 1994
19 and 1996 papers, and in his 1999 book, must be false. It should
20 be emphasized that an innovation claimed and presented in a Ph.D.
21 dissertation at MIT (or any other reputable University) is one of
22 the most thoroughly investigated of all academic work in order to
23 definitely establish originality.

24 D. During the 1960s, many peer-reviewed papers were
25 published in the professional aerospace literature giving the
26 credit for discovering the revolutionary innovation of replacing
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1 conventional direct-transfer trajectories for reaching a target
2 planet with indirect bi-elliptical trajectories (gravity-assist
3 free-fall multiplanetary trajectories) to Hollister by citing his
4 1963 Ph.D. Dissertation. (Exhibits 21, 22) No paper, book, or
5 magazine article has ever been published giving the credit to
6 Battin except Battin's own publications. One of the individuals
7 giving the credit to Hollister was Dr. Krafft Ehricke, who was
8 perhaps the world's leading astrodynamist at that time. (See
9 pages 176 and 247 Exhibit 23.) That Battin also never published
10 any paper correcting the assignment of credit for this
11 fundamentally important innovation to Hollister in the
12 professional literature throughout the 1960s also proves that
13 Battin did not make the Discovery in either 1960 or January,
14 1961, as he now claims almost 40 years later. Battin could not
15 object to the assignment of credit to Hollister since his name
16 was mentioned by Hollister as providing technical assistance in
17 computing Hollister's claimed gravity-assist trajectories thereby
18 acknowledging Hollister's claim on the innovation and proving
19 that he (Battin) did not make the innovation.

20 E. In 1970, Hollister, who had joined Battin at MIT after he
21 received his Ph.D. degree, published a paper on gravity-assist
22 trajectories, (with Menning from Lockheed) entitled "*Periodic*
23 *Swing-By Orbits between Earth and Venus,*" (Exhibit 24) wherein he
24 identified Minovitch as having made the Discovery by citing
25 Minovitch's August 23, 1961 JPL paper. Hollister would have
26 surely identified Battin (his colleague and mentor at MIT) as
27

1 the inventor in this 1970 paper if Battin's alleged 1960 or
2 January 1961 discovery, described in his 1999 book, and in the
3 recent 1994 and 1996 papers, respectively, were actually true.
4 Battin would not have kept his alleged discovery a secret from
5 Hollister after all these years. Therefore, this 1970 paper by
6 Hollister provides additional evidence showing that Battin's
7 claim of having made the discovery in 1960 or 1961 prior to
8 Minovitch is false.

9 F. Battin's later writings also prove that he did not make
10 the Discovery in 1960 or 1961. In 1978, Battin published a paper,
11 entitled "Highlights 1978: Astrodynamics," and stated that Crocco
12 was the first person to exploit the gravity fields of the planets
13 to achieve multiple planetary flybys. (Exhibit 25) As pointed out
14 above (see footnote 2) Crocco achieved his multiple planetary
15 flyby trajectory by finding a constant elliptical path that
16 intercepted the multiple planets and canceling out the effects of
17 planetary perturbations that he regarded as annoying disturbances
18 that would make the multiple planetary interceptions impossible.
19 However, as also pointed out above, in 1964, Battin published a
20 book, *Astronautical Guidance* and pointed out on page 185 that
21 Crocco did not originate the principle of gravity-assist
22 trajectories since his encounter sequence was Earth-Mars-Venus-
23 Earth and not Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth. (Exhibit 7) Regardless of
24 whether Battin did or did not believe Crocco made the Discovery,
25 these publications do prove that Battin himself did not make the
26 Discovery in 1961 because he would have obviously then claimed

1 the credit for originating gravity-assist trajectories, had he
2 done so, instead of waiting over 26 years to make this claim in
3 his 1987 book (the revised edition of which was published in
4 1999) and in his 1994 and 1996 papers. Battin did not make the
5 claim in 1964 because he had recognized Hollister as the
6 innovator in 1963. Thus, these 1964 and 1978 publications by
7 Battin (Exhibits 7, 25) represent additional evidence showing
8 that Battin's recent claim of credit for the Discovery is false.

9 G. In the fall of 1990, Battin was interviewed by William
10 Kosmann, a JPL scientist, who was researching the origin of
11 gravity-assist trajectories. Battin told Kosmann that he
12 discovered gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories
13 well before January 1961 and gave Kosmann photocopies of a set of
14 6 dated lantern slides (Exhibit 26) claiming that they described
15 various aspects of Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth gravity-assist
16 trajectories prepared by MIT's Instrumentation Laboratory (now
17 called the Draper Laboratory) during the May-August 1960 time
18 period. Kosmann documented the interview with a notarized
19 affidavit, under penalty of perjury, with the photocopies of the
20 lantern slides that Battin gave him as attachments to this
21 affidavit. (Exhibit 27) These dated lantern slides that Battin
22 gave Kosmann as evidence proving his having made the Discovery
23 prior to 1961 represents further evidence that Battin's new story
24 of making the discovery in January 1961, described in his 1994
25 and 1996 papers, is false. The photocopies that Battin gave
26 Kosmann that were prepared by Battin's Instrumentation Laboratory

1 carried index numbers for record keeping purposes that are not
2 published and could have only been obtained from Battin himself.

3 Battin's 1994 publication describing his alleged discovery
4 of Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth gravity assist trajectories (Exhibit 8)
5 is entirely different from the story he told to Kosmann in 1990
6 (Exhibit 27). In the new story, Battin claimed to have made the
7 discovery by computer calculations dated January 26, 1961 and
8 cited a computer printout with this date to prove his claim.
9 Quoting directly from Battin's 1994 paper (page 6 Exhibit 8) and
10 from his 1996 paper (page 900 Exhibit 9):

11 "I sensed the importance of this result and
12 saved the tabulator listing which included
13 the date of the printout - January 26, 1961.
Today it is among my most treasured
mementos."

14 Although Battin stated that he regarded the computer printout as
15 one of his most treasured mementos, he made no reference to any
16 computer printout or tabulator listing in the fall 1990 interview
17 with Kosmann.

18 Hence, Battin cannot have made the Discovery both prior to
19 1961 and in 1961. The claims are mutually exclusive where in
20 both the claim of Discovery in 1960 and the claim of Discovery in
21 1961 the Discovery is tied to particular dates, evidence, and
22 events. Where both cannot be true, the answer is that neither is
23 true. Battin had not made the Discovery prior to Minovitch as
24 claimed in his published books and papers.

25 H. The first paper Battin wrote describing his alleged
26 Discovery was entitled, "The Trajectory Problem As It Relates To
27

1 *The Mission For Interplanetary Flight.*" (Exhibit 28) This paper
2 was part of a collection of papers published in a book entitled
3 *Air, Space, and Instruments*, that was published in 1963. In his
4 1994 and 1996 papers, Battin explained the fact that he claimed
5 to have made his alleged Discovery in January 1961 but the paper
6 was not published until 1963 by asserting that the manuscript of
7 the book was delivered to the publisher (McGraw-Hill) in 1961 but
8 the publisher delayed publishing the book for over one year.
9 Quoting directly from pages 5 and 6 of his 1994 paper and from
10 page 900 of his 1996 paper (Exhibits 8, 9), Battin states:

11 "A volume of original contributions titled
12 *Air, Space, and Instruments* was planned to
13 honor Charles Stark Draper on his sixtieth
14 birthday which would occur on October 2,
15 1961. Hal Laning and I contributed a chapter
16 17 on our trajectory work for interplanetary
17 missions. Unfortunately, the actual
18 publication of the Draper Anniversary Book
19 was delayed by the publisher and it did not
20 appear until early in 1963. ... Needless to
21 say, I was most anxious to publish the
22 result. Our chapter for the Draper
23 Anniversary Book was already underway and the
24 multiple fly-by orbit would provide a really
25 dramatic climax for our contribution. I
26 would have published it in a separate paper
27 had I known that McGraw-Hill would slip their
28 publication schedule for the Draper volume by
 more than a year."

21 A careful reading of the various papers published in that book
22 reveal that contrary to what Battin claims, the manuscript could
23 not have been submitted before May 16, 1962. On page 72 of that
24 book a reference was made, *in the past tense, to a paper that was*
25 *presented by the author (Herbert Weiss) at a Naval Research*
26 *Conference during May 14-16, 1962.* (Exhibit 29) Quoting directly
27

1 from this reference (Ref. 50) that was published on page 72 of
2 the Draper book:

3 "Foreseeable Changes in Operations Research
4 Tasks, Techniques and Organizations, paper
5 presented at the 20th Anniversary Conference
6 on Operations Research sponsored by Office of
7 Naval Research, May 14-16, 1962."

8 This reference proves that the manuscript of the papers for the
9 book was sent to the publisher by the editor (Sidney Lees) after
10 this date. This is because the manuscript of the Draper book
11 that contained Battin's paper, as well as all the others, was
12 sent to the publisher (McGraw-Hill) by the editor of that book
13 (Sidney Lees) as one entire manuscript. It was not sent to the
14 publisher one paper at a time from each author. (Papers are
15 typically sent to the editor. The editor collects the papers,
16 and delivers them to the publisher at the same time in the order
17 that they will appear in the published book. This is the job of
18 the editor, not the publisher.) Therefore, references to papers
19 published in 1962 and presented at conferences held in 1962
20 obviously mean that the manuscript for that book could not have
21 been delivered to the publisher in 1961 as claimed by Battin.

22 There are other papers in the book citing other articles and
23 books published in 1962. For example, see Ref. 74 page 73, Ref.
24 4 page 96, and Refs. 4, 5 page 445. (Exhibit 30) Therefore,
25 Battin's claim made in his 1994 and 1996 papers contending that
26 the book containing his paper was sent to the publisher for
27 publication in 1961 is not true.

28 I. When Battin republished his 1994 paper in 1996, he

1 added an Addendum containing what he called "proof" to support
2 his claim. This proof consisted of a dated library log from the
3 Instrumentation Laboratory describing drawings of Earth-Venus-
4 Mars- Earth gravity-assist trajectories. (Exhibit 31) A copy of
5 this dated library log was given to Minovitch's previous
6 attorney, Robert Lauson, by Battin in a letter dated August 8,
7 1999, (Exhibit 32) which was when Minovitch first became aware
8 of the 1996 *Acta Astronautica* article, (Exhibit 9). Battin
9 presented the library log record to Lauson with the statement:

10 "The addendum provides evidence not subject
11 to interpretation, which removes all question
12 concerning the authenticity of my claim that
13 the work described took place early in 1961.
14 The two figures, which depict the Earth-
15 Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories, labeled Fig.
16 26 and Fig. 27 on pages 118 and 119 of the
17 Draper Anniversary Volume Air, Space, and
18 Instruments, edited by Sidney Lees and
19 published by McGraw-Hill Book Company in
20 1963, were made from negatives numbered and
21 recorded in the librarian's log at the MIT
22 Instrumentation Laboratory (now called the
23 Charles Stark Draper Laboratory) for the date
24 7 February 1961. A photo-copy of the
25 appropriate page for that log is enclosed.
26 This is conclusive proof that I successfully
27 calculated the Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
28 trajectories no later than January 1961."

20 Since the dated library log from the Instrumentation Laboratory
21 is in direct contradiction to the story Battin told Kosmann
22 during the 1990 interview which Battin supported by giving
23 Kosmann photocopies of six dated indexed lantern slides prepared
24 by MIT's Instrumentation Laboratory in 1960 which appeared to
25 represent much stronger evidence (Exhibit 26), Battin's claim is
26 false. Furthermore, on information and belief, the library log
27

1 record that Battin gave to Lauson must have been altered. This
2 can be seen by examining the index numbers: As illustrated, the
3 index numbers from the August 1960 lantern slides that Battin
4 gave Kosmann in 1990 (Exhibit 26) had index numbers ranging from
5 18067 to 18071. However, by examining the library log that
6 Battin gave Lauson dated 2/7/61, a log only five months later,
7 (Exhibit 31) the index numbers range from 18831 to 18836. This
8 is an increase of over 800. Such a jump in such a short period
9 of time is unreasonable and can only be explained by a log date
10 for Battin's slides describing the Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
11 trajectories much later than 2/7/61. Efforts by Minovitch to
12 obtain these library log records from the Draper Laboratory to
13 make a detailed investigation have been unsuccessful. (Exhibits
14 33-36)

15 13. The existence of Battin's 1994, 1996 and 1999 publications
16 has made it impossible for Minovitch to ever receive proper
17 "official credit" for his Discovery. No award can ever be
18 granted to a person for making a discovery if a paper has been
19 previously published in a professional scientific journal, or in
20 a book, giving independent allegedly valid evidence proving that
21 the author made the discovery because the author would obviously
22 be identified as the person making the discovery on the basis of
23 the evidence presented. Therefore, since Battin has introduced
24 evidence that appears to be of an authentic nature, including
25 archival records from an MIT library, allegedly proving that he
26 made the Discovery prior to Minovitch's initial work, it will be

27
28

1 impossible for Minovitch to ever receive the official credit for
2 his fundamentally important innovation of gravity-assist free-
3 fall multiplanetary trajectories (popularly known as "gravity-
4 assist trajectories") which made it possible to explore the
5 entire solar system with instrumented spacecraft, and the
6 official credit will have to be given to Battin. Therefore, by
7 committing serious scientific fraud, Battin has effectively
8 stolen Minovitch's Discovery and claimed it for himself.

9 14. Efforts to resolve the dispute with Battin out-of-court
10 were unsuccessful. On July 20, 1999 Minovitch's previous
11 attorney, Robert Lauson, presented Battin with the above-
12 mentioned evidence demonstrating that his claims of discovering
13 gravity-assist multiplanetary trajectories prior to Minovitch
14 were not true and requested Battin to cease and desist publishing
15 these claims. (Exhibit 37) Battin responded with a letter dated
16 August 8, 1999, ignored the evidence that Lauson mailed to him,
17 and presented a copy of his 1996 paper with the Addendum which
18 Battin cited as "removing all doubt" that he made the discovery.
19 (Exhibit 32) Lauson responded with a letter dated August 26,
20 1999 indicating that his response ignored the evidence and that
21 his 1996 paper did not contain verifiable evidence proving his
22 claim. (Exhibit 38) Battin responded with another letter dated
23 September 10, 1999 and insisted that he did make the Discovery
24 prior to Minovitch. (Exhibit 39) **What is noteworthy in Battin's**
25 September 10, 1999 response (Exhibit 39) is the fact that he
26 continued to ignore his 1962 paper (Exhibit 11) that proves that
27

1 he did not make the Discovery in 1961. (If Battin did make the
2 Discovery in 1961, he would have described it in his 1962 paper
3 dealing with navigation for round-trip trajectories to Mars where
4 the three-year trip times made these missions very difficult.)

5 At this point, it became clear that Battin had no intention
6 of stopping his publications falsely claiming credit for
7 Minovitch's Discovery.

8
9 FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

10 (LIBEL)

11
12 15. Minovitch realleges and incorporates by reference herein
13 each and all of the foregoing allegations.

14 16. In an article in 1994, then again in a revised version of
15 the article in 1996 (of which Minovitch only became aware in
16 August, 1999), and finally, in a revised book, re-published in
17 1999, as described above, Battin has stated in writing, and
18 caused to be published, statements to the effect that he was the
19 first person to have made the Discovery of the trajectory design
20 innovation known as "gravity-assist multiplanetary trajectories"
21 (also known as "gravity-assist" or "swingby" trajectories) by
22 virtue of his claim of discovering the first gravity-assist
23 multiplanetary trajectory having the form Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth
24 - in having done so in either 1960 or 1961.

25 17. Said statements are false in that (a) Minovitch made the
26 Discovery prior to Battin, as proven by Minovitch's having
27

1 written a JPL technical paper dated August 23, 1961 describing
2 the innovation -- the first documented paper ever written
3 describing the innovation -- that has been cited and recognized
4 in the professional literature and (b) Battin did not make the
5 Discovery at least until 1962 when he submitted for publication
6 his first paper discussing the Discovery.

7 18. Said false statements have damaged Minovitch's reputation,
8 within the academic scientific community, as there is now in
9 print claims that the Discovery was made prior to when Minovitch
10 did so, thereby lessening and hurting his reputation in that it
11 will no longer be known that Minovitch was the first person to
12 have made the Discovery - as is now his reputation.¹¹

13
14 ¹¹ As pointed out above, during the 1960s, numerous peer-
15 reviewed papers were published by leading astrodynamists
16 crediting Hollister and his 1963 Ph.D. Dissertation from
17 MIT for making the innovation of "gravity-assist
18 trajectories," also known as "swing-by trajectories" or
19 "bi-elliptical transfers." (Exhibits 21-23) The fact that
20 Hollister published a paper in 1970 and identified Minovitch
21 for making the discovery in 1961 (Exhibit 24) effectively
22 placed Minovitch as the person who made the Discovery among
23 the professionals. Minovitch was also identified as the
24 person making the discovery by his former 1961 JPL
25 supervisor Victor Clarke (Exhibit 40); in various peer-
26 reviewed published professional papers written by JPL
27 researchers (Exhibit 41), including publications from JPL's
28 Director, Dr. William Pickering (Exhibit 42); published
29 interviews with another former JPL Director, Dr. Bruce
30 Murray (Exhibit 43); in official JPL/NASA publications
31 (Exhibit 44); publications made from MIT (Exhibit 24); and
32 in publications made in the popular scientific literature
33 over a period of many years. (Exhibits 45, 46) Minovitch was
34 also recognized as the inventor in various newspaper
35 articles (Exhibits 43, 47-49), TV documentary programs on
36 the history of space travel shown on PBS and throughout the
37 world that was re-shown over a period of several years
38 (Exhibit 50) and in scholarly books on the history of space
39 travel. (Exhibit 51)

1 19. Minovitch has been damaged by this injury to his reputation
2 in that the information published by Battin in the professional
3 literature claiming credit for discovering gravity-assist free-
4 fall multiplanetary trajectories prior to Minovitch will make it
5 impossible for Minovitch to receive the "official credit" for
6 this fundamentally important innovation, as Minovitch has been
7 seeking to obtain for several years. (Exhibits 52-60) Un-official
8 credit was granted to Minovitch by numerous publications as
9 pointed out above (see footnote 11), but the "official credit"
10 has never been granted. JPL management has indicated that
11 "official credit" will be granted to Minovitch if it can be
12 determined that his discovery was, in fact, new. (Exhibit 55)
13 This determination is made by a "peer review" process of the
14 published professional literature. (Exhibit 55) In 1996, Battin
15 published (in the prestigious professional journal *Acta*
16 *Astronautica*) what appears to be absolute and irrefutable
17 evidence in an Addendum he added to his 1994 paper proving his
18 claim of discovering gravity-assist trajectories prior to
19 Minovitch - library log records from MIT's Instrumentation
20 Laboratory illustrating his gravity-assist trajectories on slides
21 that he claimed were made at MIT on February 7, 1961. Since a
22 peer reviewer reading this 1996 paper would have to assume that
23 the information published in the Addendum is true, Minovitch
24 would not be given the official credit for this discovery. The
25 fact that this discovery was the key that made it possible to
26 explore the entire solar system with instrumented spacecraft is
27

1 demonstrated by the fact that in 1991 Minovitch was officially
2 nominated for the Nobel Prize in physics (for 1992 or for any
3 future date determined by the Nobel Committee) for having made
4 this discovery. (Exhibit 61) At that time, the monetary value
5 of the Nobel Prize in physics was \$1,600,000. Battin's
6 fraudulent publications will prevent Minovitch from ever winning
7 this award, or any other prestigious award for having made the
8 discovery/invention/innovation.

9 It should be noted that receiving a substantial monetary
10 award for an important invention is not speculation, it is a
11 reasonable certainty. The inventor is usually automatically
12 nominated by his institute affiliation, or by the professional
13 societies in which he is a member. Therefore, by publishing his
14 fraudulent claims in the professional literature, Battin has
15 denied Minovitch: (1) the "official credit" for his
16 discovery/invention/innovation, (2) a substantial monetary award
17 that would be granted by receiving "official credit," and (3) the
18 honor and dignity that he would be entitled to for having made a
19 discovery of this importance.

20 20. Additional damages that Minovitch has suffered as a result
21 of Battin's fraudulent published claims of having made the
22 Discovery prior to Minovitch, is the damage to his health due to
23 significant emotional stress. Since Minovitch became aware of
24 Battin's claim to his Discovery, this has created a sense of
25 severe depression and emotional distress as Minovitch could see
26 his Discovery being stolen from him by Battin in the professional
27

1 literature. As a result, Minovitch contacted a doctor
2 specializing in treating severe cases of emotional stress. An
3 examination by this doctor detected extremely large, life-
4 threatening blood clots that are typically induced by emotional
5 stress. This was documented by darkfield photographs of
6 Minovitch's blood taken by his doctor in 1998. (Exhibit 62) A
7 statement from Minovitch's doctor explaining that the cause of
8 these large blood clots is most likely due to severe emotional
9 stress is attached hereto. (Exhibit 63)

10 21. The value of the foregoing damages Minovitch has suffered
11 as a result of Battin's actions will be proven at time of trial.

12 22. The Addendum published in *Acta Astronautica* by Battin in
13 his 1996 paper (Exhibit 9) gives a good example showing how
14 Battin is explicitly and overtly attempting to take the credit
15 for the Discovery away from Minovitch. In this Addendum, Battin
16 identifies a paper written by Dave Doody from JPL published in
17 1995 crediting Minovitch for the Discovery (Exhibit 46) and
18 states essentially (with some frustration for theatrical effect
19 by ending with "Oh well") that Doody was wrong and that he
20 (Battin) was the person who really made the Discovery. Battin
21 presents what appears to be irrefutable evidence proving that he
22 was the person who made the Discovery with preceding remarks by
23 citing the library log record describing slides of his gravity-
24 assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories that were allegedly
25 made by MIT's Instrumentation Laboratory on February 7, 1961.
26 (Exhibit 31) These remarks by Battin allegedly proving that he
27

1 made the Discovery, not Minovitch, which he published in the
2 Addendum of his 1996 paper are quoted herein in their entirety
3 (page 901 Exhibit 9):

4 "When I began the preparation of my lecture
5 for the IAF Congress in Jerusalem, I showed
6 the original lantern slides of the multiple
7 fly-by orbit to the Draper Laboratory
8 librarian. I asked her if it was possible to
9 determine when these slides had been made.
10 "Certainly" was the answer. "We do keep a
11 log, you know." And there indeed it was.
12 After all those years - the proof was in the
13 log!"

14 "On 7 February 1961 slides had been made for
15 R.H. Battin described as "6 ORBIT CHARTS
16 (BOTH MARS & VENUS) - APRIL 20, 1966, - SEPT
17 20, 1966, - SEPT 1, 1967, - AUG 20, 1972, -
18 JAN 25, 1973, - JUNE 18, 1973" and numbered
19 18831 through 18836. The last three slides
20 illustrate the Earth - Venus - Mars - Earth
21 orbit for the launch date of 9 June 1972.
22 Each slide shows the configuration of the
23 spacecraft and planets for the date cited.
24 In fact, Fig. 26 of the Draper Anniversary
25 volume is the one for 18 June 1973."

26 "The first three slides are for a multiple
27 fly-by orbit with a launch date of 6 February
28 1966 which also appeared in the Draper
Anniversary volume as Fig. 27. It was for
the spacecraft and planet configuration of 1
September 1967."

"At the end of my presentation in Jerusalem
during the 45th IAF Congress in October of
1994, I was told of an article in the
February/March 1994 issue of *Air &
Space/Smithsonian* titled "Gravity's
Overdrive" which gave a history of the
gravity assist principle with only a
parenthetical remark noting that MIT had done
some work in that area. More recently, in
the April/June 1995 issue of *The Planetary
Report*, published by the Planetary Society,
is an article by Dave Doody of the Jet
Propulsion Laboratory titled "Basics of
Spaceflight: Gravity Assist." As a part of
the introduction he writes: "Astronomers had

1 long known that comets' orbits were altered
2 by encounters with planets, but it was
3 Minovitch who first recognized that the
principle could be applied to spacecraft
trajectories." - Oh well."

4 These statements (and others cited above) by Battin claiming that
5 he made the Discovery in January 1961 were made and published
6 recklessly and or with knowledge that they were untrue, in view
7 of all of the foregoing evidence that such discovery could not
8 have been made by Battin prior to Minovitch, and as such they
9 were made with oppression, fraud and malice, within the meaning
10 of Code of Civil Procedure section 3294, thereby entitling
11 Minovitch to punitive damages, in an amount to be determined by
12 the trier of fact.

13
14 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

15 (SLANDER OF TITLE)

16
17 23. Minovitch realleges and incorporates by reference herein
18 each and all of the foregoing allegations.

19 24. Battin caused to be published the above-referenced articles
20 and book, which were in fact published, containing the above-
21 referenced false statements therein, which thereby disparaged
22 Minovitch's rights to claim, and the title in, the Discovery and
23 the benefits associated therewith, in that they both put a cloud
24 over whether Minovitch made the Discovery and further preclude a
25 third party, other scientist or anyone conducting a "peer review"
26 from being able to establish Minovitch's rights to title in said
27

1 Discovery.

2 25. Said statements and publications were not justified as the
3 documented archival publications and various other evidence
4 presented herein makes it clear that Battin did not make the
5 Discovery when he said he did.

6 26. As a direct result of said slander and disparagement of
7 Minovitch's right of title to the Discovery, Minovitch has
8 suffered pecuniary loss, as set forth above in paragraphs 18, 19,
9 and 20.

10 27. Said statements were made and published recklessly, and or
11 with knowledge that they were untrue, in view of all of the
12 foregoing evidence that such discovery could not have been made
13 at that time, and as such they were made with oppression, fraud
14 and malice, within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section
15 3294, thereby entitling Minovitch to punitive damages, in an
16 amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

17

18

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

19

(INTERFERENCE WITH PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE)

20

21 28. Minovitch realleges and incorporates by reference herein
22 each and all of the foregoing allegations.

23 29. By reason of Battin having made the above-referenced false
24 statements and caused those to be published, he has thereby
25 interfered with Minovitch's ability to obtain "official credit"
26 for having made the Discovery in that there is now a competing
27

27

28

1 claim that Battin made the Discovery prior to Minovitch.

2 30. Said interference was wrongful where Battin knew or should
3 have known in making said statements that they were untrue -
4 particularly in view of the amount of evidence that he had not
5 made the Discovery when he claimed to have discovered it, and
6 that by reason of such misrepresentations of the historical
7 record, Minovitch would be damaged.

8 31. As a direct result of said interference with Minovitch's
9 expectancy of prospective economic advantage, Minovitch has
10 suffered pecuniary loss, as set forth above in paragraphs 18 -20.

11 32. Minovitch is therefore also entitled to injunctive relief,
12 including a preliminary and permanent injunction against Battin
13 prohibiting him, and all of his agents, from further causing to
14 be published any statements representing that Battin made the
15 Discovery.

16 33. Said statements were made and published recklessly, and or
17 with knowledge that they were untrue, in view of all of the
18 foregoing evidence that such discovery could not have been made
19 at that time, and as such they were made with oppression, fraud
20 and malice, within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section
21 3294, thereby entitling Minovitch to punitive damages, in an
22 amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

23
24 FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

25 (MISAPPROPRIATION OF RIGHT OF PUBLICITY)
26
27

1 34. Minovitch realleges and incorporates by reference herein
2 each and all of the foregoing allegations.

3 35. Battin, without Minovitch's consent, invaded Minovitch's
4 right to privacy by misappropriating his right to publicity,
5 namely, Minovitch's right to exploit his identity as inventor of
6 the Discovery (his "inventorship").

7 36. Battin's conduct involved the appropriation of Minovitch's
8 inventorship because Battin claimed that he invented the
9 Discovery rather than Minovitch.

10 37. The appropriation was for Battin's advantage, pecuniary
11 gain and profit, in that deceiving and misleading the public, and
12 in particular, the scientific community, into believing that
13 Battin invented/originated the Discovery tends to significantly
14 enhance Battin's reputation at the expense of Minovitch's
15 inventorship.

16 38. As a proximate result of the above misappropriation,
17 Minovitch has suffered injury to his identity as the
18 inventor/originator of the Discovery, as referenced above in
19 paragraphs 18 and 19, in an amount according to proof.

20 39. Minovitch is therefore also entitled to injunctive relief,
21 including a preliminary and permanent injunction against Battin
22 prohibiting him, and all of his agents, from further causing to
23 be published any statements representing that Battin made the
24 Discovery.

25 40. Said statements were made and published recklessly, and/or
26 with knowledge that they were untrue, in view of all of the
27

1 foregoing evidence that such Discovery could not have been made
2 at that time, and as such they were made with oppression, fraud
3 and malice, within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure Section
4 3294, thereby entitling Minovitch to punitive damages, in an
5 amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

6
7 FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

8 (UNFAIR COMPETITION)

9
10 41. Minovitch realleges and incorporates by reference herein
11 each and all of the foregoing allegations.

12 42. The foregoing conduct of Battin constitutes unfair
13 competition, within the meaning of Business and Professions Code
14 section 17200, et seq., in that the false statements and
15 representations made were likely to deceive the public, including
16 but not limited to the scientific community.

17 43. As a direct result of said wrongful conduct, Battin has been
18 unjustly enriched and therefore Minovitch is entitled to an order
19 that Battin disgorge all of his ill gotten gains, subject to
20 proof at time of trial.

21 44. Minovitch is also entitled to injunctive relief, including
22 a preliminary and permanent injunction against Battin prohibiting
23 him and his agents from further causing to be published any
24 statements representing that he made the Discovery.

25

26

27

28

1 further claims to having made the Discovery;

2 4. For an order disgorging Battin of all ill gotten gains he
3 has received from having made claim to the Discovery;

4 5. For a declaration as to the rights of the parties with
5 respect to claiming to having made the Discovery;

6 6. For attorney's fees incurred herein, to the extent such may
7 be recoverable;

8 7. For costs of suit; and

9 8. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just
10 and proper.


11

12 DATED: February 8, 2000

DAVID J. COWAN

13

14

By 
David J. Cowan
Attorney for Plaintiff
Michael A. Minovitch

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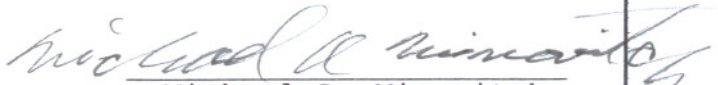
VERIFICATION

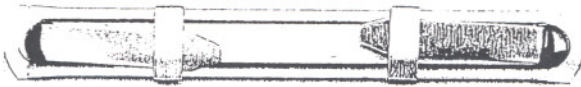
I, Michael A. Minovitch, declare and state as follows:

I am the Plaintiff in the foregoing Complaint. I have read the Complaint. The allegations stated therein are true and correct, except as to those matters alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe those to be true.

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

Executed this 5 day of February, 2000, at Los Angeles, California.


Michael A. Minovitch



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FEB 09 2000

**LOS ANGELES
SUPERIOR COURT**

1 DAVID J. COWAN, Bar No. 136830
2 3780 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 910
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4 Telephone: (213) 386-7957

5 Attorney for Plaintiff
6 Michael A. Minovitch


7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
8 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
9

10 MICHAEL A. MINOVITCH,)	Case No.	B C224528
11 an individual,)		
)		
12 Plaintiff,)		
)	EXHIBITS TO COMPLAINT	
13 V.)	(Volume 1)	
)		
14 RICHARD H. BATTIN,)		
15 an individual, and)		
16 DOES 1 through 20,)		
inclusive,)		
)		
17 Defendants.)		

18
19 Plaintiff Michael A. Minovitch attaches hereto Exhibits 1
20 through 20 to his complaint, filed herewith. A list of the title
21 of the exhibits is also attached hereto.

22
23 DATED: February 8, 2000

DAVID J. COWAN

24
25 By 
26 David J. Cowan
27 Attorney for Plaintiff
28 Michael A. Minovitch

1 DAVID J. COWAN, Bar No. 136830
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2 Los Angeles, CA 90010
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3 Attorney for Plaintiff
4 Michael A. Minovitch

FEB 09 2000

**LOS ANGELES
SUPERIOR COURT**

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6
7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
8 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES


B C224528

9
10 MICHAEL A. MINOVITCH,) Case No.
11 an individual,)
12 Plaintiff,)
13 V.) EXHIBITS TO COMPLAINT
14 RICHARD H. BATTIN,) (Volume 2)
15 an individual, and)
16 DOES 1 through 20,)
17 inclusive,)
Defendants.)

18
19 Plaintiff Michael A. Minovitch attaches hereto Exhibits 21
20 through 63 to his complaint, filed herewith. A list of the title
21 of the exhibits is also attached hereto.

22
23 DATED: February 8, 2000

DAVID J. COWAN

24
25 By 
26 David J. Cowan
27 Attorney for Plaintiff
Michael A. Minovitch

EXHIBITS TO COMPLAINT

1. Crocco, G.A., "One-Year Exploration Trip Earth-Mars-Venus-Earth," *Proceedings of the VIIth International Astronomical Congress*, Rome 1956, pp. 227-252.
2. Ehricke, K., "Interplanetary Flight Involving Several Planets," Section 9-9 in *Space Flight II, Dynamics*, D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 1962, pp. 1058-1070.
3. Ross, S., "Nonstop Trips Passing Both Mars And Venus: The Interplanetary Grand Tours," Section 5 in *Final Report: A Study of Interplanetary Transportation Systems*, (NAS 8-2469), Lockheed Missiles & Space Company, June 2, 1962, pp. 5-1, 5-2.
4. Lawden, D.F., "Interplanetary Orbits," Chapter 9 in *Space Research and Exploration*, ed. D.R. Bates, William Sloane Associates, New York, 1958, pp. 174-175.
5. Von Karman, T., "Introductory Remarks On Space Propulsion Problems," in *Advances In Astronautical Propulsion*, Casci, C. (ed), Pergamon Press, New York, 1962, pp. 3-10.
6. Minovitch, M.A., "A Method for Determining Interplanetary Free-Fall Reconnaissance Trajectories," JPL, TM 312-130, August 23, 1961, pp. 38-44.
7. Battin, R.H., *Astronautical Guidance*, McGraw-Hill book Co. New York 1964, p.185.
8. Battin, R.H., "On Algebraic Compilers and Planetary Fly-By Orbits," 45th Congress of the International Astronautical Federation, Oct. 9-14, 1994, Paper No. IAA-94-IAA.2.1.618.
9. Battin, R.H., "On Algebraic Compilers and Planetary Fly-By Orbits," *Acta Astronautica*, Vol. 38, No. 12, 1996, pp. 895-902.
10. Battin, R. H., *An Introduction to the Mathematics and Methods of Astrodynamics*, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc., New York, 1999, pp. 16-19.
11. Battin, R.H., "A Statistical Optimizing Navigation Procedure for Space Flight," *ARS Journal*, Nov. 1962, pp. 1681-1696.

12. Battin, R.H., "The Determination of Round-Trip Planetary Reconnaissance Trajectories," *Journal of The Aero-Space Sciences*, Vol. 26, No. 9, Sept. 1959.
13. "Notice of Approval," for Minovitch's numerical investigation of gravity propelled interplanetary trajectories, Project No. MA-11, UCLA Computing Facility, Jan. 18, 1962.
14. Letter from Gene Bollman (JPL trajectory analyst) to Minovitch, April 16, 1962.
15. Szebehely, V.G.I. "Astrodynamics -- State of the Art - 1962," *Astronautics*, November 1962, pp. 52-55.
16. JPL shipment receipt for the delivery of computing paper from JPL to UCLA's Computing Facility, and the delivery of Minovitch's gravity propelled trajectory computations from UCLA to JPL, May 4, 1962.
17. Computer print-out, Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth gravity propelled trajectories, UCLA Computing Facility Research Project CF-09, June 12, 1962.
18. Clarke, V., "Interplanetary Round-Trip Program," JPL Section 312 RFP No. 71, June 21, 1962.
19. Letter from Minovitch to Professor Norriss Heatherington, June 10, 1974. (This letter was 25 pages long and contained a detailed account of the invention and early development. The information was documented by sending copies to all the JPL engineers whose names were mentioned in the letter as well as others. They included Dr. William Pickering, Dr. C.R. Gates, Dr. William Melbourne, Tom Hamilton, Dr. Harry Lass, William Sjogren, Raoul Roth, Elliott Cutting, Francis Sturms, Jack Lorell, Paul Lahman, James F. Scott, and Carl Solloway. All of these individuals also received copies of Minovitch's letter to Clarke dated June 10, 1974.)
20. Hollister, W.M., *The Mission For A Manned Expedition To Mars*, Ph.D. Dissertation, MIT (Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics), May 1963.
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27. Kosmann, W.J., "**Notarized Affidavit By Declaration Under Penalty Of Perjury**," September 24, 1999. (A notarized written testimony of Richard Battin's claim of discovering gravity-assist Earth-Venus-Mars-Earth trajectories as told to William Kosmann during an interview with Battin in the Fall of 1990. The affidavit also includes copies of lantern slides Battin gave to Kosmann with dates showing May and August 1960 to support his claim.)
28. Battin, R.H. and Laning Jr., J.H., "The Trajectory Problem As It Relates To The Mission For Interplanetary Flight," in, *Air Space And Instruments*, (Sidney Lees ed.), McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1963, pp. 97-119.
29. Weiss, H.K., "Influence of the Guidance Designer on Warfare," Reference No. 50, in *Air Space And Instruments*, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1963, p. 72
30. *Air Space And Instruments*, (Sidney Lees ed.), McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1963, pages 73, 96, and 445.
31. Photocopy of one sheet of a library log record from MIT's Instrumentation Laboratory for February 1961 showing the dates corresponding to various slides identified by index numbers ranging from 18823 to 18847.

32. Letter from Richard Battin to Robert Lauson, August 8, 1999.
33. FAX communication from Minovitch to Jacky Bonarrigo (Draper Laboratory) requesting copies of Draper Library Logs from 18000 to 19000, December 30, 1999.
34. FAX communication from Jacky Bonarrigo (Draper Laboratory), to Minovitch with 7 questions as to why he is requesting copies of Draper Library logs, January 5, 2000.
35. FAX communication from Minovitch to Jacky Bonarrigo (Draper Laboratory) giving answers to the 7 questions, January 7, 2000.
36. FAX communication from Jacky Bonarrigo (Draper Laboratory), to Minovitch stating that the Draper Laboratory "declines to provide the materials requested," February 3, 2000.
37. Letter from Robert Lauson to Richard Battin, July 20, 1999.
38. Letter from Robert Lauson to Richard Battin, August 26, 1999.
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40. Letter from Victor Clarke Jr. (Minovitch's 1961 JPL supervisor) to Professor Norrass Hetherington, (Science historian from the University of Kansas), July 22, 1974.
41. Bourke, R.D. and Beerer, J.G., "Mariner Mission to Venus and Mercury," *Astronautics & Aeronautics*, January 1971, pp. 52-59.
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 WQED/Pittsburgh in Association with the National Academy of Sciences. (Segment showing that it was Minovitch's invention of gravity-assist trajectories made during the summer of 1961 that made it possible to explore most of the solar system with instrumented spacecraft.)
51. Burrows, W.E., *This New Ocean: The Story Of The First Space Age*, Random House, New York, 1997, pp. 455-460.
52. Letter from Minovitch to Kohlase, Oct. 30, 1989.
53. Letter from Minovitch to Kohlase, Feb. 20, 1990.
54. Letter from Minovitch to Kohlase, Oct. 25, 1990.
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61. Professor Mieczyslaw Subotowicz, Institute of Physics, M. Curie-Sklodowska University, "PROPOSAL for AWARD of the NOBEL PRIZE for PHYSICS for 1992 or LATER to Dr. Michael A. MINOVITCH", Nobel Committee for Physics and Chemistry, The Royal Swedish Academy for Sciences, August 21, 1991.
62. Darkfield microscopy photographs of Minovitch's blood taken in 1998 showing very large life-threatening blood clots.
63. Statement by Dr. James R. Privitera, MD., (Minovitch medical doctor) indicating that Minovitch has very large life-threatening blood clots most probably due to emotional stress.