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For More Information
Kevin Lampe
Kurth Lampe Worldwide
(312) 617-7280
kevin@kurthlampe.com
TaskForce@WritersMustBePaid.org

Statement of #DisneyMustPay Joint Task Force on Scarlett Johansson's Lawsuit Against Disney

August 30, 2021 – The #DisneyMustPay Joint Task Force calls on Disney to respect Scarlett Johansson's professional and artistic work on the film *Black Widow*. The first way to respect Ms. Johansson is to pay her properly and not use unethical contractual maneuvers to avoid payment. This is not the first time the Task Force has seen Disney attempt such twisting of contractual language.

The #DisneyMustPay Task Force is working to ensure that contracts are honored for all creators. This includes writers, actors, illustrators, and other artists. Disney has a pattern of behavior that forces creators to jump through unnecessary and tedious hoops to receive their agreed-upon payments. They continue finding new ways to avoid paying people for their creativity and honoring their contracts. Disney must pay all creators for their work, and the #DisneyMustPay Joint Task Force is leading the way to make sure that happens.

Background on the #DisneyMustPay Joint Task Force

The [#DisneyMustPay](#) Joint Task Force identifies and guides authors and other creators who might be owed money. Disney is refusing to cooperate with the Joint Task Force to identify affected authors and other creators. The Task Force was formed by [Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc.](#) (SFWA) and includes the [Authors Guild](#), [Horror Writers Association](#), [International Association of Media Tie-In Writers](#) (IAMTW), [International Thriller Writers](#), [Mystery Writers of America](#), [National](#)

[Writers Union](#), [Novelists, Inc.](#), [Romance Writers of America](#), [Sisters in Crime \(SinC\)](#), [Writers Guild of America West \(WGAW\)](#), and [Writers Guild of America, East \(WGAE\)](#). Individual writers on the Task Force are [Neil Gaiman](#), [Lee Goldberg](#), [Mary Robinette Kowal](#), [Chuck Wendig](#), and [Tess Gerritsen](#).

The **#DisneyMustPay Joint Task Force** makes sure writers' and other creators' contracts are honored, but individual negotiations are rightly between them, their agents, and the rights holder. The Disney Task Force is working to address structural and systemic concerns. Additional updates and information are available at www.writersmustbepaid.org.