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**AFFIDAVIT**

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My name is Karleen Bennett Hebert. I am above the age of eighteen years, and I am fully competent to make this affidavit. The facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

“Janis Joplin and I were best friends throughout junior high school and senior high school, beginning in the 1950s through our graduation from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1960. After graduation Janis and I did not see as much of each other as I married immediately after we graduated from high school and Janis left Port Arthur, Texas to attend the University of Texas in Austin, later moving to California. Janis returned to Port Arthur in 1965 and began attending what is now Lamar University, formerly Lamar Tech. Janis told me that she declared herself as an art major when she was attending Lamar Tech. It was during her return to Port Arthur that she and I reconnected until she left Port Arthur permanently in 1966 to front for Big Brother & The Holding Company.

While Janis and I were still in high school, I introduced her to Ruth Hall, telling Janis that if she ever had any problems, Ruth would be a good person to talk to, as Ruth had been a helpful friend to me and other kids our age.

During that period, Janis and I were frequent visitors to Ruth's home. Our visits with Ruth lasted until Janis left in 1966 for California. I specifically remember that it was during one of those visits, while we were talking about Janis's interest in art, that Ruth asked Janis to create a painting for her. This was notable because, to my knowledge, it was the first painting Janis was paid to do.

We referred to this piece as "The Purple Painting" and it hung on the wall at Ruth's home until Ruth died in 1970.

Since Janis' death in 1970, I have been interviewed by the authors of several books about Janis, including Laura Joplin, Janis' sister, who wrote "Love, Janis". I was the one who told Laura how Janis came to be commissioned by Ruth Hall to create "The Purple Painting." I still keep in touch with Laura.

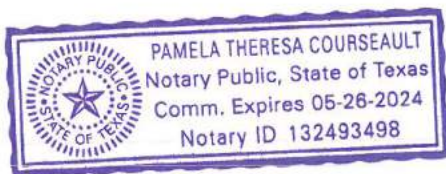
██████████ and ██████████ are the children of Ruth Hall."

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Karleen Bennett Hebert  
Karleen Bennett Hebert, Affiant  
TLC - East  
1511 Marlandwood Road  
Room 307  
Temple, Texas 76502

SIGNED under oath before me on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Pamela Courseault  
Notary Public, State of Texas





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## AFFIDAVIT

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My name is Herman Samford Bennett. I am above the age of eighteen years, and I am fully competent to make this affidavit. The facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

“My name is Herman Bennett. I was born and raised in Port Arthur, Texas. Although we were a generation apart, Ruth Hall and I became close friends when I was in high school because we were members of the same Synagogue. I worked for Ruth in the 1960s, delivering Sunday newspapers to the racks in various parts of town.

My older sister, Karleen, was also Ruth’s friend. Karleen and I spent a significant amount of time at Ruth’s house because she had an open-door policy for people she liked, older, younger, teens and kids.


Janis Joplin, also from Port Arthur, was Karleen’s friend. In fact, Janis was one of Karleen’s best friends through their junior high and high school days. Janis also spent a lot of time at my family’s house, by the way, but that is probably beside the point, for this affidavit.

At some point, in my early college days, I learned that Ruth commissioned Janis to create a painting just for her while Janis was a student at Lamar Tech (now Lamar University) in Beaumont, Texas, a few miles from Port Arthur.


I remember seeing the painting at Ruth's house after Janis finished it. I was surprised that it involved nudity, as it was the 1960s, but was very impressed at the "art" of it. After Ruth died (at a too young age), I lost touch with most of Ruth's family, except for her daughter [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I both lived in Austin, Texas in the 1970s. We drifted apart but we have since reconnected.

I can absolutely verify that "The Purple Painting" created by Janis Joplin for Ruth Hall in the 1960s, before she left Port Arthur for California, is the same painting that hung on a wall in Ruth Hall's home in Port Arthur, Texas and ultimately ended up with [REDACTED] and her brother [REDACTED]."

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

  
Herman Samford Bennett, Affiant  
1613 W. 9th St.  
Austin, TX 78703

SIGNED under oath before me on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

  
Notary Public, State of Texas

