OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND PETITIONS UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT IN CASE AGAINST FX FOR FALSE PORTRAYAL IN “FEUD”

Los Angeles, California (October 5, 2018) – Today Olivia de Havilland, 102 years old, filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court, asking the Court to review the California Court of Appeal’s decision dismissing her claims against FX for the unconsented and false portrayal of her in the series “Feud: Bette and Joan.”

“The United States Supreme Court grants very few writs; however, this case is of immense social significance and popular concern over the California Court’s use of the First Amendment to immunize Hollywood businesses when they knowingly publish unconsented falsehoods about living people in commercial productions,” said Suzelle Smith, counsel for de Havilland. “The Court of Appeal’s decision is a radical departure from traditional First Amendment precedent, and benefits no group other than those who seek to use the names and identities of others in untrue and salacious ‘historical dramas’ for their own profit,” said Smith.

“Miss de Havilland has always said she will not give up on this important Constitutional and moral struggle with the financial powerhouses in the entertainment world. The fact that we received hundreds of calls, emails, and letters from people of all walks of life imploring us not to abandon the fight encouraged her and her team not to lose heart,” said Smith.

Miss de Havilland commented from her home in Paris on the Petition to the highest U.S. Court: “We must persevere and speak truth to power. The fight is itself important to the principle of honesty, so much in need today in the face of deliberate public confusion for selfish agendas.”

The text of the Petition can be found at https://www.supremecourt.gov/.

Miss de Havilland is represented by Don Howarth and Suzelle M. Smith of the Los Angeles-based firm Howarth & Smith.

Press inquiries should be directed to Alice Gilbert at Howarth & Smith. Ms. Gilbert can be reached by phone at (213) 955 – 9400 ext. 160 or by email at agilbert@howarth-smith.com.