

From Alan M. Dershowitz [mailto:dersh@law.harvard.edu]
 Sent Friday, December 03, 2004 15:1 PM
 To Robert Dynes
 Cc edley@law.berkeley.edu
 Subject Finkelstein U Cal Press

*Please
 handle
 in coord.
 w/ JEH*

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PRESIDENT'S IMMEDIATE OFFICE	
MRCG	12/3

(advance copies made for MRCG - JEH) xc: RCD
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Dear President Dynes

I am writing to inform you of a potentially serious matter involving the University of California Press. It is scheduled to publish a defamatory book about me by an author with a long history of defamation and mental instability. I am advised that a previous publisher which had originally agreed to publish the book decided against doing so after looking into the facts. The author, Norman Finkelstein has been fired by several universities for abusing students and for his mental instability. As you can see from his email (attached) to Dean Elena Kagan of the Harvard Law School, he claims that he will demonstrate in a forthcoming book that I almost certainly did not write the book (The Case for Israel) and perhaps didnt even read it prior to publication. He makes other false charges as well relating to alleged plagiarism. These statements are defamatory, false, and maliciously inspired. As I have advised Mr. Finkelstein in the past, I do not know how to type or use a computer. I personally wrote every single word of the text of The Case for Israel by hand and have dozens of eyewitnesses and other proof confirming this.

I cannot imagine any responsible press publishing obviously false charges by a man with a long track record of ideologically-motivated defamation. Neither my office nor I have received any calls from fact-checkers associated with your press. Finkelsteins personal fact-checker, Rohit Goel, falsely represented to Dr. Michael Baden that he was my fact-checker. Speaking on behalf of your publishing house, Finkelstein has screamed threats at various journalists from *The New York Times* and the *Harvard Crimson*. He has also threatened Dr. Michael Baden and others. It was precisely these kinds of threats and intimidation that got Finkelstein fired from several academic jobs, including at least one where his contract was not renewed because he intimidated students, abused students and manifested extreme psychological instability. I have the names of the people involved in the decisions to fire Finkelstein.

I have sent Finkelsteins editor, Niels Hooper, a package of material proving beyond any doubt his pattern of malicious defamation. I did not want to burden you with this information, but would be happy to send it to you if you so request. I am seeking to find the names of the Board of Syndics or any comparable group that some university presses employ to determine whether proposed books meet their high standards. I have been unable to obtain any information about these names. I wish to send them copies of the material as well. As I have previously written, I have no interest in censoring any publication. But I do insist that a book, a large part of which is devoted to Alan Dershowitz has been checked for accuracy and that all appropriate measures have been taken to assure that its biased and defamatory author does not include within it maliciously false information.

I would appreciate very much your looking into this matter since I know that your fine university will not want to be associated with a person such as Norman Finkelstein and his defamatory writings.

Sincerely,

Alan Dershowitz

Finkelstein email to Kagan.doc

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