

X-Sieve: CMU Sieve 2.2
X-Sender: dersh@law.harvard.edu@pop.law.harvard.edu
Date: Fri, 03 Dec 2004 17:19:58 -0500
To: Sheila.Levine@ucpress.edu
From: "Alan M. Dershowitz" <dersh@law.harvard.edu>
Subject: Finkelstein
Cc: edley@law.berkeley.edu
Resent-From: <Sheila.Levine@ucpress.edu>
Date: Fri, 3 Dec 2004 13:48:45 PST
Resent-To: sheila.levine@xmail.ucpress.edu
Resent-Date: Fri, 3 Dec 2004 14:17:30 -0800 (PST)
X-Virus-Scanned: by amavisd-new at ucpress.edu

Dear Ms. Levine:

I am writing to you about the attached email recently sent to Dean Elena Kagan of the Harvard Law School by one of your proposed authors, Norman Finkelstein. In the email, Finkelstein claims that I almost certainly did not write the book (The Case for Israel) and perhaps didn't 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. Finkelstein's 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 Finkelstein's editor, Niels Hooper, a package of material proving beyond any doubt his pattern of malicious defamation. 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. Please let me know what you intend to do about this matter.

I am certain that you will want to pass this note along to all relevant people within your organization, including your legal department.

Sincerely,

Alan Dershowitz

 Finkelstein email to Kagan.doc

Alan M. Dershowitz
Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law
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alder@law.harvard.edu

From: "Norman Finkelstein"
Date: Wed, 01 Dec 2004 20:31:39
To: EKagan@law.harvard.edu
Cc:
Subject: Forthcoming Book on A. Dershowitz

Dear Dean Kagan,

I am right now completing a book manuscript for University of California Press, a large part of which is devoted to Alan Dershowitz. (See Amazon.com under "Beyond Chutzpah" for details.) I spoke today to Sara Rimer who informed me that Harvard "completely exonerated" Dershowitz of all plagiarism charges. Your colleague Michael Armani stated that, although the expression belonged to Dershowitz, it accurately renders the conclusions you reached after your "investigation." I wonder if I might inquire what was the nature of this investigation. To my knowledge I was the only one who leveled the plagiarism charges against Dershowitz. You plainly made no effort to contact me for the evidence. Indeed, it was publicly reported that I had in my possession the advanced proofs for the book which conclusively demonstrated that Dershowitz instructed his research assistants to copy the quotations and citations in his book from Joan Peters's hoax, *From Time Immemorial*. My book will!

devote a full chapter to conclusively documenting Dershowitz's plagiarism. I will also demonstrate that he almost certainly didn't write the book, and perhaps didn't even read it prior to publication. (The remainder will demonstrate that every substantive sentence in his book on the Israel-Palestine is fraudulent, a remarkable achievement). It is regrettable that you didn't request any of the evidence I've accumulated to support these claims. I assume you will not object if I report at the end of this chapter that: "Harvard Law School, after conducting what it called a thorough investigation, completely exonerated Dershowitz of all charges." If this statement is inaccurate, I would appreciate a precisely accurate statement of HLS's position regarding the Dershowitz case.

Sincerely,
Norman G. Finkelstein