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CHAUDHRYLAW.COM

January 21, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Susan Crumiller  
Crumiller P.C.  
16 Court St, Suite 2500  
Brooklyn, New York 11241

Re: *Julianna Czernyk v. Michael Bongiovanni*, Case No. 1:21-cv-10429-JGK

Dear Ms. Crumiller:

Your comments on the BronxTalk show hosted by Gary Axelbank on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 about my law partner Priya Chaudhry constitute actionable defamation. You repeatedly called her a liar and stated that she lied about the \$1M demand your client (Julianna Czernyk) made of our client (Michael Bongiovanni). Ms. Czernyk and her attorneys at the time (Kelner & Kelner) stated, on multiple occasions to multiple witnesses, that if this \$1M demand was met, she would drop the Fordham investigation and any other complaints about this alleged incident.

It is quite ironic that you as founder of a “feminist litigation firm” jumped at the first opportunity to call another woman a liar without regard for the truth. You either intentionally misrepresented the facts to the program and its viewers when you brandished Priya as a liar, or you recklessly disregarded the facts and didn’t even bother to investigate. Instead, you chose to defame Priya without any care for the actual truth. As you should know, you have an ethical obligation as an attorney to get accurate information from your client before making statements about the facts of the case. So either you knew what Priya said is true and you yourself lied and defamed Priya, or your client has misrepresented or lied to you about her demand of \$1M from Mr. Bongiovanni. Either way, in making the defamatory statement about Priya, you have put yourself in the position of being inextricably intertwined in the facts of the case and we believe you now have a conflict of interest because you must either admit you defamed Priya or admit Ms. Czernyk lied to you.

We have at least two very reputable witnesses, who possess contemporaneous documentation, that will swear under oath to receiving this \$1M demand from Ms. Czernyk’s attorneys at the time, Kelner & Kelner. We will also call the attorneys from Kelner & Kelner as witnesses to testify as to the demand they made on behalf of Ms. Czernyk. As you should know, an attorney cannot make a demand without authorization from a client, so it is clear that Ms. Czernyk authorized such demand to Mr. Bongiovanni. In fact, Ms. Czernyk will also likely be a witness in the defamation case against you—further evidence that you have a conflict of interest. As part of your ethical obligations, we expect you to promptly discuss this conflict with Ms. Czernyk.

LETTER TO SUSAN CRUMILLER

JANUARY 21, 2022

PAGE 2 OF 2

If you do not issue a retraction of your defamatory statement to BronxTalk (referring to the \$1M demand as a lie, and thus brandishing Priya as a liar) by Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 p.m. with a copy to us, then we will have no choice but to seek the appropriate recourse against you, including but not limited to the filing of a defamation lawsuit against you. You have an ethical and legal obligation to ensure that the defamatory statements you made about Priya do not air when the BronxTalk program is released on Monday, January 24th. We demand that you preserve all evidence relating to the defamatory statements you made, whether to BronxTalk or anyone else, as you are on notice of potential litigation.

We look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth J. Zuckerman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Seth J. Zuckerman