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Via Email

LawsInTexas.com
Blogger, Inc.
info@lawsintexas.com

RE: Editorial Inquiry – Michael Minuto

<https://lawsintexas.com/houston-lawyer-james-rivera-and-divorcee-spouse-piipar-rivera-are-real-scumbags-together/?ampBackstory>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am reaching out to you on behalf of my client, Michael Minuto, to very respectfully request that you consider removing his name, any references to him or his employer, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation and any other data associated with him from the above-cited article and your website. Let me be clear with you. This is not your typical “lawyer letter.” Rather, this off the record inquiry is editorial in nature, and it is not a legal demand. At the outset I want to make it clear that I understand the stated mission of your organization and recognize your outlet has broad discretion in deciding what of its copyrighted material to allow the public to access through the Internet. We are not questioning your First Amendment right to do so. Rather, in this instance, I believe my client is a bystander caught in the crossfire of what appears to be a legitimate story of public interest. I appreciate you taking the time to review this request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Trained in computer science, Michael moved to Texas from Florida in 2009 to work as a software manager. He transitioned into using his computer skills to do charitable work. He helped found a social impact network called Good Citizen Network and is now working to write grants for low-income school districts to help improve the quality of education of vulnerable K-12 children. On the side, he used his interest in marketing to start Lone Star Home Buyers of Texas to help real estate investors with leads, tools and marketing services. Investors would join his platform to get leads. One feature of the platform was a Google account that provided an email address using the Lone Star brand, which allowed investors to use that address to log in to the platform and support chat rooms. The investors were instructed to use their own email branding on contracts as Lone Star had no connection to any deals the investors were closing. As it relates to your article, James and Piipar Rivera joined the Lone Star platform and took advantage of the marketing services. However, in violation of their contract, they used the Google email address associated with Lone Star on a TREC contract. **Mr. Minuto was not involved in the deal described in your article in any way.** He was not involved in how they purchased or sold the property in the article. Further, he had no

knowledge of what they were doing outside their use of his platform. The Riveras left the Lone Star platform not long after the transaction referenced in your article was completed. For his part, troubled by the increase in bad actors in the investor community, Mr. Minuto has since completely shut down Lone Star Home Buyers of Texas.

I am reaching out to you in the hopes that you will remove Mr. Minuto's name and the links associated with him, including the link to his current employment at the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation because he is no way involved with the issue and is only mentioned because the Riveras violated the terms of their contract and brought his marketing company email into play. Typically, our firm would ask for the complete removal of the article. However, as I noted, we understand the need for platforms like yours to keep the public informed of such information. It is just not fair play to include Mr. Minuto in that list as he is in no way associated with these individuals' dealings.

As someone who works with clients every day trying to remove content from the internet, I have seen how the presence of content naming an individual and placing them square in the eyes of the court of public opinion, even when no crimes ever occurred, can severely derail a life. The harm inflicted on Michael's quality of life, his mental health and his career in the charity community far outweighs any public interest in access to his information and seems contrary to the mission of your organization.

In light of the above, we respectfully ask that you please consider removing his name, any references to him or his employer, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation and any other data associated with him from the above-cited article and your website. I believe that personal communication sometimes works best to clarify matters. So if you would like to talk in more detail about this please contact me by phone at (216) 373-7706 or by email at msimonelli@minclaw.com. I would also be happy to set up a zoom call at your convenience.

Any measure of relief granted would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Michele McBride Simonelli