

Danielle Murakami

9/18/2013

IMED 1359

Libel, Slander, Defamation and Privacy Assignment

A scientist was presented with a libel lawsuit against his findings. Libel meaning that what was written, printed or pictured was to defame one's character or reputation. Ben-Jei Tsuan, an environmental scientist, had done presentations showing elevated cancer rates in central Taiwan and linked them to emissions from an industrial complex with plants owned by several companies belonging to the Formosa Plastics Group (FPG). FPG had tried to sue Tsuan for libel charges, but the Taiwanese court dismissed the charges against Tsuan on account that Tsuan's declarations were "fair comments on a fact subject to public criticism."

A lawsuit for Defamation is passed by the Judge. Defamation is an act to disgrace someone's good name. Michael E. Mann, a climate science professor at Pennsylvania State University, files a lawsuit against the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) and National Review for publishing an article that compares Mann to the former Penn State football coach and convicted child molester Sandusky. Judge Natalia M. Combs Greene of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia writes in Friday's ruling that, "The evidence before the court indicates the likelihood that 'actual malice' is present." Thus the case has not been dismissed and Mann is well on his way for a chance to appear in court with a jury.

A Subway franchise is being sued for defamation after a "Harlem Shake" dance. Slander is a malicious report or statement meant to injure the reputation or well-being of a person. 22-year old Orlando Guapo, one of the people from the video, said after he refused to take the video down, he started seeing posters that had accused him of being a trespasser and damaging his reputation in the process. According to court records at the Palm Beach County Courthouse, a legal response has not been filed on behalf of Timesaver Food Stores, the Subway franchise company.

Google being sued for privacy invasion. Privacy means to be secluded or isolate from the view of, or from contact with others. The federal court held a case against Google Inc. for violating a federal wiretap law when collecting data for its Street View program. In March, Google agreed to pay \$7 million to settle a probe into the matter involving 38 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. As part of that settlement, Google agreed to destroy data collected in the United States.

References

<http://www.nature.com/news/scientist-cleared-of-libel-in-taiwan-court-1.13685>

<http://blogs.nature.com/news/2013/08/taiwan-court-set-to-decide-on-libel-case-against-scientist.html>

<http://news.sciencemag.org/asiapacific/2013/09/taiwanese-court-dismisses-libel-case-against-academic>

<http://climatecrocks.com/2013/08/31/judge-drops-hammer-on-deniers-climate-scientists-case-against-slander-goes-forward/>

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/global-warming/climate-scientist-can-sue-for-defamation-judge-says-130905.htm>

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/319757-judge-again-refuses-to-toss-climate-scientist-manns-defamation-suit-against-national-review>

<http://www.examiner.com/article/dc-judge-again-refuses-to-dismiss-climatologist-mann-s-libel-lawsuit>

http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_the_glades/south_bay/harlem-shake-video-at-south-florida-subway-turns-sour-dancer-suing-franchise-in-defamation-lawsuit

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2013/may/14/man-who-posted-video-youtube-now-suing-subway-defa/>

<http://www.clickorlando.com/news/harlem-shake-dancer-sues-south-florida-subway/-/1637132/20140502/-/12n9hi2z/-/index.html>

http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2013/09/11/google_wi_fi_snooping_case_shows_company_s_contradictory_views_on_privacy.html

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/10/us-google-streetview-lawsuit-idUSBRE98913D20130910>

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2013/sep/10/google-street-view-privacy-lawsuit>

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/11/technology/court-says-privacy-case-can-proceed-vs-google.html?_r=0

Houghton_Mifflin Harcourt, "Webster's New Collge Dictionary" third edition.