

SlipperySlabbed

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South Coast revises its reporting

01/17/2012, 12:15:36 PM | slabhappy

In apparent response to the Trout Point Lodge blog post detailing misstatements of fact made in a Shelburne, NS-based blog, and after reportedly checking facts by actually finally contacting Louisiana Ethics Administration officials, South Coast Today is now no longer making the allegation that Aaron "Broussard is the subject of several complaints before the Louisiana Ethics Commission, some of them reportedly connected to charges that he may have operated a 'shake-down' scheme in which he enticed vendors doing business with the Parish to rent vacation property he and wife Karen Parker-Broussard owned in the East Kempt Wilderness in Nova Scotia."

The blog has simply fine-tuned its innuendo, however. South Coast still mentions unfounded allegations made in early 2010 that involved Broussard's Nova Scotia properties; these allegations proved to be without substantiation and are thus not newsworthy. They were retracted three times and corrected once by the major New Orleans newspaper. The blog also suggests that Broussard and his wife are still together; they divorced in 2009.

The following previously-reported statements are now also gone:

- that Louisiana "officials named in court documents and media stories own properties adjacent to Trout Point Lodge and/or have stayed at the lodge over the years"
- the Broussard's Nova Scotia partnership Public Works Investments is still active
- that one of Kempt Wilderness' partners "had been recently granted land in the area by Trout Point Lodge Ltd."
- that the Times-Picayune only retracted "some of thier [sic] published statements"

The post, which was entitled "New Orleans corruption charges with roots in Nova Scotia" is now entitled "New Orleans corruption case with tentacles in Nova Scotia." The allegations listed above have also been eliminated or altered. South Coast calls Jefferson Parish the epicentre of flooding after Hurricane Katrina, showing complete unfamiliarity with the facts or the region.

Other misstatement of fact identified here earlier remain on the blog. South Coast has called Trout Point's publication "tit for tat," however it looks like nothing more than a completely non-defamatory attempt to defend well-deserved good reputations from a homophobic bully's libellous and hateful attacks over an extended period of time.

South Coast Today's reporting in a different post today that Trout Point Lodge owners Leary, Abel, & Perret

were “organic lawyers” in Louisiana also appears erroneous. What is an organic lawyer, anyway?

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Nova Scotia blog receives a correction from Trout Point

01/17/2012, 6:56:24 AM | slabhappy

On its blog today, Trout Point Lodge has published some factual corrections for reports emanating from Shelburne, Nova Scotia-based blog South Coast Today. The blog’s publisher and author, Timothy Gillespie, is reportedly friends with someone fired by the Lodge in 2004. Gillespie has also been a frequent commenter on Slabbed and informant for Doug Handshoe.

The relevant portion of the Lodge’s updated post reads:

Other blogs in both Louisiana and Nova Scotia have unfortunately picked up and given credence to the Slabbed defamation, including South Coast Today, published from Shelburne, NS, by a friend of disgruntled former Trout Point Lodge employee Joyce Case-Harlow, who was fired in 2004.)It should be noted that Mr. Broussard has since sold all of his Nova Scotia property holdings). The innuendo on South Coast has included:

- that Leary & Perret have “a defamation claim” against South Coast’s publisher related to “a blog related to SCT” (untrue);
- that “New Orleans [sic] corruption charges” have their roots at Trout Point in Nova Scotia (untrue);
- that Louisiana “officials named in court documents and media stories own properties adjacent to Trout Point Lodge and/or have stayed at the lodge over the years” (untrue, except for Mr. Broussard);
- that “Broussard is the subject of several complaints before the Louisiana Ethics Commission, some of them reportedly connected to charges that he may have operated a ‘shake-down’ scheme in which he enticed vendors doing business with the Parish to rent vacation property he and wife Karen Parker-Broussard owned in the East Kempt Wilderness in Nova Scotia” (untrue, see above and this [report](#));
- that Broussard and his ex-wife rented their Nova Scotia properties directly to third parties (untrue);
- the Broussard’s Nova Scotia partnership Public Works Investments is still active (it has been revoked by the Registry of Joint Stocks since mid 2010);
- that “properties owned by the Broussards and others have been rented at times through a Nova Scotia firm called Kempt Wilderness Lodge Services, whose registered office doubles as a caretaker’s cabin for Trout Point Lodge nearby” (untrue—Kempt Wilderness Lodge Services has never conducted rental activities at Trout Point, nor is it the Lodge’s caretaker’s residence);
- that one of Kempt Wilderness’ partners “had been recently granted land in the area by

Trout Point Lodge Ltd.” (untrue);

- that the Times-Picayune only retracted “some of thier [sic] published statements” (untrue, there were 2 blanket retractions, including on the front page of the print edition, above the fold, in bold face font).

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Trout Point Lodge et. al. break the silence

01/16/2012, 2:33:44 PM | slabhappy

A [new post](#) has appeared on the Trout Point Lodge blog that tells the story of Slabbed quite well. It gives new insight and context to the situation.

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Handshoe at it again – The Ethics Board charges against Aaron Broussard do not include anything related to Trout Point Lodge or Nova Scotia

01/15/2012, 1:13:04 PM | slabhappy

Today, Doug Handshoe has written on [Slabbed](#) of a “line of inquiry into the current [Louisiana] State Ethics Board investigation into a pay to play scheme involving the development at Trout Point, large parts of which were owned by Aaron Broussard and certain politically connected parish contractors.”

Fact: while the Louisiana State Ethics Board is investigating or has investigated Mr. Broussard—former President of Jefferson Parish—there is nothing in those charges about Trout Point Lodge or Charles Leary, Daniel Abel, & Vaughan Perret, or even Nova Scotia. The Ethics Board charges are public record, and here you can read the [Ethics Board Charges Against Aaron Broussard](#).

The contemporaneous Times-Picayune newspaper coverage is [here](#).

Ethics Board complaints have a limitations period of 1 year. This has run long ago.

What does publishing such a statement say about Doug Handshoe? Is he Desperate? Just a bully? Or a desperate bully? Share your opinion.

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Comments (3)

Who's who at Slabbed? – help fill in the gaps — Updated

01/15/2012, 12:39:20 PM | slabhappy

The Slabbed blog consists not only of the dubious defamatory rants of Sop81_1 (Doug K. Handshoe, CPA) but also the words of a whole cast of characters including (but hardly limited to):

whitmergate

sharkpuppet

unslabbed

eyewigger

& finisterre

Information exists that at least one individual has more than 10 identities on Slabbed, which identities even engage in conversation amongst themselves in the comments section (schizophrenia?). There has also been public speculation, including reasonable deductions, as to the identity of some Slabbed players on Slabbed itself as well as on nola.com forums and elsewhere online. Doug himself has stated that one of these person's is an important informant for the FBI, no less.

All those who have born the wrath of Slabbed attacks, or anyone else for that matter, feel free to post a comment with any identifying information. It'll be kept confidential if you want; just say so in the comment. Help us to put a face (or faces) on these anonymous identities. Help expose what selfish motivations are out there on Slabbed, contorting facts to fit whatever agenda exists at the moment. Let the sunshine in!

UPDATE 2012/01/16

We have information from a reader: Slabbed posters "Patricia," "zeldafayebaker," and "enemagirl" are one and the same—a very real person living in south Louisiana. More to come . . .



"Fair Use"

UPDATE 2012/01/17

We have word from a reader that sharkpuppet, unslabbed, and Whitmergate are one in the same person. Interesting conversations between themselves, no doubt. Here's some entertaining sock puppets from unslabbed's YouTube channel. Ring any bells for anyone?



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Some insight on the SPEECH Act for Doug Handshoe & Co.

01/15/2012, 12:10:14 PM | slabhappy

The **Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage (SPEECH) Act** has been held up by Doug Handshoe on the Slabbed blog as somehow protecting him from foreign lawsuits based on what a Canadian judge has called his *prima facie* defamatory publications. For example, Handshoe writes:

You see folks the good people in Congress and President Obama saw the problem with venue shopping to file frivolous SLAPP suits against the media, so last year the [SPEECH Act was passed](#) which guarantees my free speech rights as an American citizen against any judgement in a foreign court unless US free speech standards were used as the criteria by the foreign court in deciding the case. Even better, [SPEECH gives me a cause of action against Leary, Perret and Trout Point should I choose to pursue it](#). This issue was so important it even passed both Houses of Congress unanimously. God Bless America.

Unfortunately for Doug, a plaintiff suing from his home jurisdiction is not "forum shopping." Even US federal courts have said that a defamation plaintiff is injured where he resides, and not necessarily where the publications were first made. (Gee, you might think that saying someone was forum shopping and filing frivolous law suits might be defamatory, no? Especially for someone who is a lawyer like Vaughan Perret.)

Beyond that, though, the relevant part of the SPEECH Act has two components, not just the one raised on Slabbed. The Act says

(a) First Amendment Considerations.–

"(1) In general.–Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, a domestic court shall not recognize or enforce a foreign judgment for defamation unless the domestic court

determines that-

“(A) the defamation law applied in the foreign court’s adjudication provided at least as much protection for freedom of speech and press in that case as would be provided by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States and by the constitution and law of the State in which the domestic court is located; or

“(B) even if the defamation law applied in the foreign court’s adjudication did not provide as much protection for freedom of speech and press as the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the constitution and law of the State, the party opposing recognition or enforcement of that foreign judgment would have been found liable for defamation by a domestic court applying the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the constitution and law of the State in which the domestic court is located.

“(2) Burden of establishing application of defamation laws.–The party seeking recognition or enforcement of the foreign judgment shall bear the burden of making the showings required under subparagraph (A) or (B).

Doug forgot to mention part “B.” You see, a plaintiff with a foreign defamation judgment can have a US court enforce the judgement if the defendant was publishing words that would be defamatory in the United States. Now it may be true that Canadian defamation law does not have the same protections for freedom of expression as post-Sullivan (New York Times v. Sullivan, US Supreme Court decision) US law has for free speech, but that becomes a moot point if what you are publishing would in any event be considered libellous in, say, Mississippi or Louisiana.

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Handshoe’s knee-jerk: more defamation & unfounded allegations on Slabbed

01/15/2012, 11:52:08 AM | slabhappy

Doug K. Handshoe, a Mississippi Certified Public Accountant, has returned to publishing new unfounded allegations on [Slabbed](#) about Charles Leary, Daniel Abel, and Vaughn Perret, in what seems like a not-very-well-thought-out reaction to having a judgment against him in Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Slabbed has [published](#) that investors in Cerro Coyote, the Costa Rica corporation that owned and operated the acclaimed Inn at Coyote Mountain, have been “fleeced” by Daniel Abel and Aaron Broussard. In fact, according to published reports, Cerro Coyote sold the 70-acre Alajuela Province property and 5-room inn designed and built by Perret & Leary, and is looking for a new property and location to invest in, as those with accommodation rights in Costa Rica never used them. There is no known basis for the blog’s allegations.

Unfounded accusations of criminal actions by Abel, Perret, and Leary are nothing new for Slabbed readers. Handshoe has kept up the twice ([here](#) & [here](#)) retracted innuendo of New Orleans area news media that Trout

Point Lodge was somehow involved in a Jefferson Parish political corruption scandal, and has gone on to accuse Charles Leary of perjury before a Nova Scotia judge. Handshoe and others publishing on Slabbed have with no foundation accused the Lodge and its principals of involvement with the mafia, racketeering, fraud, and receipt of illegal monies. In May of last year a judge determined the Slabbed publications to be *prima facie* defamatory. A judgment against Handshoe has reportedly recently been entered in Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Slabbed has also published that a long-settled legal dispute between Charles Leary and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is ongoing, and that Leary and his associates are losing that litigation at every step. In fact, not only has the dispute been settled amicably out of court quite some time ago, the legal proceeding was not one sided. The dispute reached the level of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, and the Nova Scotia business news web site allnovascotia.com reported on that decision in October, 2009 in an article by Kevin Cox.

[Article on Nova Scotia Court of Appeal decision](#)

Handshoe has published that the lawsuit was ongoing, and misrepresented what was happening in what appears to be a concerted effort to taint Perret, Abel, Leary, and Trout Point Lodge's reputations. Handshoe's motivations are not completely known, though speech targeting the trio's perceived sexual orientation was noted by the judge last May.

Handshoe's campaign of defamation appears to include his publishing mistruths about Trout Point Lodge outside of Slabbed as well. Posts on the Nova Scotia Travel Forum of number one travel web site TripAdvisor as well as a fake negative hotel review, on RipOffReport.com, on Nova Scotia-based Shelburne County Today, and [several](#) on Reddit.com make clear that Handshoe is determined in his efforts.

For an educated man with a CPA degree, small business, wife and children, to continue the defamatory publications seems like an extremely dubious strategy according to legal experts. Defamation judgments in Canada have reached as high as \$3 million, while judgments in the United States can be even higher. Unless Handshoe has hidden riches, such a judgment against him could place him the position of modern-day indentured servitude.

Courts will take a defendant's conduct up to and beyond trial in assessing damages. Handshoe claims to be protected by the **Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage (SPEECH) Act**, but this legislation gives no shelter for those whose libellous publications meet the standard of defamation in U.S. jurisdictions.

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[Apparently Doug's "judgment" isn't what it should be—a Slabbed blog defamation news item](#)

01/15/2012, 9:55:30 AM | slabhappy

Sources spying our last post on the Slabbed blog being judged *prima facie* defamatory in Nova Scotia Supreme Court brought up an important news item: there's actually a court judgment against Doug K. Handshoe, CPA, the blog's publisher and most prominent contributor.

More to come as we get the facts . . .

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How about some judicial opinion on Doug Handshoe and Slabbed?

01/15/2012, 7:15:59 AM | slabhappy

It will come as little surprise to those of you who have taken any time to peruse the Slabbed blog—slabbed.wordpress.com—that while some of the commentary there used to be opinion on matters of public concern, including at one time very real issues regarding post-Hurricane Katrina insurance law, recently under the controlling mind of Doug K. Handshoe, CPA, aka Sop81_1, the blog seems to have deteriorated into a hate-mongering scandal sheet of blatant, *per se* libel. This means Handshoe accuses people of crimes and says other things about them that the law considers so injurious that damage to the person identified is just assumed, it doesn't have to be proved.

A particular target of Handshoe and friends has been the trio of entrepreneurs Daniel Abel, Vaughan Perret, and Charles Leary, including their small hotel businesses in Costa Rica and Nova Scotia, Canada, the latter being [Trout Point Lodge](#). Slabbed's libellous publications have also ensnared federal & state judges as well as numerous politicians—public figures—but also private figures & companies like attorneys like John Houghtaling, Nan Allessandra, Kim Boyle, and Carl Finlay, the entire law firm of Phelps Dunbar, newspapers like the Globe & Mail and Times-Picayune, and numerous journalists.

It turns out that a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia took a look at Slabbed back in May, 2011, in the context of a lawsuit by Trout Point Lodge against Louisiana Media Company, LLC, the corporate parent of a New Orleans TV station. There was a motion for an order revealing identifying information about the Slabbed bloggers, including Sop81_1 as the blog's publisher & editor. In order to grant the order, the judge had to determine if the Slabbed publications were defamatory on their face. The judge so found, stating: "Trout Point has established a *prima facie* case that they were published and were defamatory." He also said: "Generally the public interest in not allowing individuals to distribute defamatory materials under the cloak of anonymity will outweigh the public interest in protecting such a person's right to privacy and freedom of expression."

You can see the decision here:

[Trout Point Slabbed Decision](#)

Just as interestingly, Handshoe and others had written lots of nasty, hate-mongering and threatening things about Leary, Perret, and Abel being gay. The judge wrote:

in the case at hand, the blogs contain comments based on the actual or perceived sexual orientation of the intended targets. Those comments are clearly meant to be derogatory and insulting. I will not reproduce them here. It is the type of expression that engenders harmful results such as discrimination and hatred. It is not the type of free expression that deserves protection and fostering. . . . Considering these factors, I am of the view that the public interest and disclosure outweighs the legitimate privacy interest and interests and freedom of expression of the anonymous bloggers.

Of course, Doug and his friends have said on more than one occasion that Canada is a “judicial hell hole,” so the judge’s words might not mean much to them. They think they are protected and can say whatever they want about whoever they want because of the **Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage (SPEECH) Act** and the laws of certain states about **Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP)**. It’s too bad that the actual statutes and case law don’t support Doug’s beliefs. Even in America, you can defame someone, particularly if its libel or slander *per se*. The only defence is the truth, and you’ve got to have evidence of that before you accuse someone of something or it doesn’t count.

More on that later . . .

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