

THE LAW OFFICES OF  
**DOUGLAS C. ANTON, ESQ.**

THREE UNIVERSITY PLAZA DRIVE  
SUITE NUMBER 207  
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY 07601  
PHONE: (201)487-2055  
FACSIMILE: (201)487-9698

WWW.DOUGLASANTON.COM

MICHIGAN OFFICE:  
33584 HARPER AVENUE  
CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI 48035  
(586)630-3211  
† ALSO ADMITTED IN MI

EMAIL ADDRESS:  
DOUGANTON@AOL.COM (DIRECT)  
DOUGASANTON@GMAIL.COM (STAFF)  
(NJ ATTY. ID 016771995)

September 8, 2015

Peter Lance  
% The Arlook Group  
Richard Arlook  
205 South Beverly Drive, Suite 209  
Beverly Hills, California 90212

**RE: JOHN ALITE / GOTTI'S RULES**

Dear Mr. Lance:

As you are aware, this office represents John Alite. Let me begin by expressing my deep admiration for your professional work. I have read several of your works over some period of time and find them to be educational and entertaining where appropriate.

Today, however, I find myself in a bit of a quagmire. While I respect your Constitutionally protected right to express yourself and your opinions, and in fact have enjoyed reading them on occasion, there is a line that gets crossed some times, where it becomes personal, actionable and downright scary. It is that "line" I would like to address with you and your representatives by way of this respectful letter.

My client has a past life just like you and I. While our past might not resemble his in any way, our pasts are something that exist that we cannot escape no matter how hard we may try. All we can do is educate ourselves and be better people in the future for our friends and family. In both your case and that of my client, what you both do, *you* more so because of your celebrity status, *matter* to other people, and had great influence. That influence is a well earned gift for you, but it creates greater responsibility on the part of the owner so that simple words don't incite harmful action.

Prior to August 4, 2015, you had made your position and feelings about my client known, in that you did not believe him, did not respect him and did not like him or any combination or measure of those. In response, my client, in breaking away from the methods of his past, wrote to you and *called you out* on what he believed to be your undisclosed loyalty to the Gotti family, as same was not only upsetting to him but knowing how much influence you have in the main stream media, made him feel oppressed by your ability and power to advance only one agenda, that of the Gotti's, and quash any competing position or opinion.

In your email to my client dated August 12, 2015, you considered my clients' August 4, 2015 email a "rambling" and you further accused my client of sending a "false and defamatory" email to you that you considered a "threat."

I admire your strength because the remainder of your written response in that email demonstrated the braggadocio and zealousness that is quite uncommon for one who *actually* feels “threatened.”

Your email further sets forth your already completed course of alarming conduct of contacting the “Justice Department,” “Federal Prosecutors,” “U.S. Dept. Of Probation,” “Harper Collins” and “Judge Bucklew.”

You further advise that even despite your knowledge that the Federal Prosecutors “immediately investigated” your accusation of a threat from a singular email of August 4, 2015, and resolved conclusively and immediately that “the email did not give rise” to any criminal or violative activity by my client, you then continued, what seems to be your personal rant and campaign to injure and hurt my client. Sir, with your power comes responsibility. Responsibility that I offer you have wielded recklessly and unethically.

Having the knowledge that the United States’ top prosecutorial office denied your allegation and refused to investigate further, you should have stopped. Instead, as if on a campaign for “another undisclosed purpose” you continued to contact other government and judiciary agencies and in fact, Her Honor, Judge Bucklew, in order to advance this defamatory and, frankly, untrue agenda.

But interestingly enough, you did not report this perceived “threat” to your local police department. You did not ask them for protection of any kind. Instead, you took the public route, the visible route, the glamorous route for the espousing of your opinions, which of course gave you a much better platform and exciting story to eventually write about.

I have clients, battered woman, who are really in fear of another person, and 100% of the time they contact their local police, file a complaint and turn to the good people of law enforcement for protection. You did not seek protection, you sought retribution. You sought to spotlight yourself not protect yourself. You used your name and your power in the media to paint a false picture of my client and injure him while bolstering yourself.

And for what? What was the horrific “threat” that my client hurled at you that had you so vigorously reporting him to any and every agency that could gain you national attention? Well, I read his email and I see the following: *“If you like to be at my next charity talk and event please feel free. You can be my personal guest and I will treat you with respect and dignity...”* Yet, you some how feel that is a threat?

Ok, let me address the part of the “invite” that you allude to as having you in imminent fear of your life, safety and well being. *“I’ll be on Mulberry Street Friday night with friends having a discussion about a television project. You are both welcome to come and talk about a proposal.”*

With respect and admiration, for such an educated journalist, your personal involvement in this matter has caused you to make false assumptions and wild accusation not typical of your reputation for credibility in reporting. Fact is, you got *this* “story” wrong Sir.

You focused in on “former mob guy John Alite” and you used your own bias and discrimination to think of him as only a *Mafia hood*. The John I know and work with every day is anything but. He is a loving father and a decent man now, with a tortured soul that he spends every day trying to redeem.

You assumed “come meet me” was a threat to your life? Wrong. How could a dinner in Newark threaten your life? In fact, I set up dinner meeting with my clients regularly in Newark. The invite to you and Mr. Gotti, Jr. was real, and the project is real. If you did your homework, as you are usually known for doing, you would know that since the release of the Trevor McDonald program in the UK my client has gone on radio shows, talk shows and interviews and is repeatedly asked, “why don’t you and John Jr. get in a room and have a debate about these issues.”

In fact, we discussed this exact possibility with a mutual friend of mine and John Jr.’s on a SiriusXM radio show earlier this year. The same thing was addressed on the Geraldo Rivera show and Mr. Rivera bantered about the possibility being the moderator for such a debate. Since that time, not only have verbal offers come in, but financial propositions as well. This was public knowledge. Had you done your research, you would have known that the invite was real one, for a real business purpose, and not to “wack” you or whatever negative, crazy spin you put on it for what seems to be the advancement of your own agenda and/or the agenda of others.

As for “Mulberry Street.” My client is a “Jersey” guy. I am a Jersey Guy. I know people like to make fun of us Jersey Guys, but we do exist and we are proud. We own the Statue of Liberty, not New York. We have Hoboken and even places like West New York, which is not “New York” at all. And yes, we even have our own very popular and well known Mulberry Street. It’s in Newark, not far from the Essex County Courthouse, and Seton Hall Law School, both places I can be found often. And it has some great restaurants that I frequent a great deal with clients, which restaurants know me and respect my privacy with my celebrity clients.

So when I set up meetings for clients who cannot leave the State for one reason or another, or other lawyers after a long day of trial, we do have places in little old New Jersey that are suitable alternatives to big city eateries. That my client spoke with a “Jersey” mind set, and you made wrongful assumptions, is not our problem... its yours. That a reporter with your professed zealotry at arriving at the truth made such a horrible, wrongful, and when you exploited same, serious errors that has had a huge negative impact on my client, is a considerable problem. Fact is, our meeting *was* on Mulberry Street in Newark, not New York or “Little Italy” as you spun it in your

responsive email and your slanderous communications with various federal and judicial agencies. Heck Peter, John's email didn't even say "Little Italy" and that's all you kept saying in your email over and over again. The Peter Lance I and your millions of readers have come to know and admire does not make those rushes to judgment, however easy they may seem to do.

In the end, you are now seen by Federal Prosecutor's as the "boy who cried wolf," finding absolutely no veracity to any of your allegations. You are also now labeled as a well respected reporter who not only made a horrible assumption, but acted upon that assumption with great zeal and defamed my client by sending out slanderous and false reportings and publishing to others hurtful and inciting comments that has lead to great damages to him, including but not limited to intentionally interference with his economic relations.

With respect sir, you have taken an innocent email, and a real business invitation, and twisted it into something that it was not. Even after knowing the Federal Authorities investigated same and found no merit to your claims, you continued to contact other agencies to advance your slanderous agenda.

I know of no loyalty you have to John Gotti, Jr. But as an outsider, seeing how you reacted to an innocent email, there is clearly an argument to be made that you have hidden loyalties that you have failed to disclosed to those you have wrongfully "reported" my client to.

Your power in the media thrusts upon you great responsibility. I believe that you have violated the trust of your readers and have been reckless with that responsibility obligation.

You have made false assumption about both my client's travels and his legitimate invite to you for a business discussion, although the words of his email were clear as to both. But it was when you took those false allegations to the next level that you committed an actionable act against my client. Have you forgotten that my client is entitled to express himself in writing the same as you and is protected by the First Amendment equally to you?

Finally, I don't pretend to know journalism, so might I suggest you distance yourself from commentary about legal issues you do not research very well. Your take on the Son of Sam law is completely off base and without any merit in law or fact whatsoever. The SOS law you raise was the first incarnation that was struck down by the higher court, leaving each state to create their own version of same. The SOS law in New Jersey currently is far less restrictive than its original counterpart and I can assure you, since I am the one charged with making sure we are always in compliance with same, that this office protects the rights of the Victims of Violent Crimes *ad nauseam* and makes sure that the SOS law implications are addressed in each of our contracts as my client moves forward in his public life in redeeming his soul and trying to help others.

As the conclusion to this letter, and because of your wrongful, tortious and actionable conduct detailed above, please consider this your **LEGAL NOTICE TO CEASE AND DESIST ANY AND ALL COMMUNICATION WITH MY CLIENT**. I advise you further that should you continue to write, comment, boast, publish or continue to espouse negative, slanderous and untruthful assertions about my client, he has authorized me to bring suit against you and any outlet of publication you use, for damages he has and may thereafter sustain. Your actions have hurt his publicity, have damaged his business reputation, are slanderous per se in some regard, have altered his relationship with Harper Collins and has caused him to thus far suffer severe pecuniary injury, which I am preparing to address for him in the weeks to come.

If you are of the integrity I have learned to expect from you, in an effort for you to mitigate damages you have already created by what my have been inadvertent assumptions that seemed logical to you at the time, I must demand that you immediately contact each and every one of those parties listed above, in writing, including any and all State and/or Federal Agencies, including specifically Judge Bucklew, and demonstrate some journalistic integrity, which is what people assume of you, and immediately retract your accusation and allegations. I demand that you copy me on all those correspondence so I know that they are done and when they are done.

This is not about who “won.” It is about what is right. I give you my word that neither this letter or your following proper integrity fueled retractions will ever be exploited or used for publicity by this office, my client or anyone on his behalf. Realizing one was wrong or rushed to judgment and then doing the right this is worthy only of respect and praise, not exploitation and publicity. My credibility and trustworthiness as an attorney of over 20 years has never been challenged and I ask that you believe me when I say that your mitigating, rightful conduct in retracting what you wrongfully communicated to others, will never be use as fodder for publicity. You need not admit liability or apologize of course, just retract your accusations based on your integrity and further upon the position of the federal authorities and their conclusion.

Besides, it’s the right thing to do and a man with your reputation for truth, absent assumption or bias, knows this without my even saying it.

Please send me copies of those retraction letters immediately. And, please let Mr. Arlook know that should you ever find yourself interested in sitting down with my client for a “real” talk about these issues that fascinate the public, he would be honored to host you. But..... we gotta stay in Jersey.

Please be guided accordingly.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

Douglas C. Anton, Esq.

DCA:cs

cc: John Alite