

*as regards to me,*

Today's front page story smearing and libeling me is utterly false, defamatory and malicious - and published with knowledge that, as to me, it is completely untrue. My family and I are outraged beyond measure at this desperate attempt to ruin my reputation.

My attorneys are evaluating legal action against the News-Press and its owner and management seeking massive damages for defamation and other harm inflicted on my family and me by this unconscionable story. The damage done to my personal and professional reputation is incalculable and we intend to move aggressively to hold Ampersand and its owner and management fully accountable for this deplorable action.

My attorneys who are handling the \$25 million dollar arbitration claim against me by Ampersand became aware some weeks ago that Ampersand was making preparations to use this scurrilous information to try to destroy me in a way their meritless legal claims against me could not.

My legal team has assembled a package of documents that they will make available to the press and public that will prove that I had nothing to do with material referred to in the story. The documents being released will also expose Ampersand's malicious machinations behind this vicious effort.

As a journalist, it is notable that this cowardly story was published without a byline, and without any attempt to contact me for comment in advance of its publication.

From the first day of this tragic situation at the News-Press, this controversy has been about ethics. Today, the shameful ethics of the News-Press and its owner are on full display for all the world to see.

Finally, I have been honored and humbled to receive the support and help from hundreds of people in this community during this awful legal and journalistic assault by Ampersand and its owner. It is this support, and the support of my family, that keeps me going, and I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart.