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July 28, 2021

By Email & U.S. Mail

Ezra W. Reese, Esq.
PerkinsCoie
700 – 13th Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-3960

Re: Halie Soifer/JDCA vs. RJC

Dear Mr. Reese:

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 22, 2021, in which you demand that the RJC delete its July 21, 2021 Tweet – in which it posed the question why your clients don't condemn antisemitism among certain elements of the Democratic Party. Rather than correcting the record by publicly responding to the RJC's question and pointing out that there was such condemnation in February 2019, you have written to demand that the RJC delete its Tweet. That would hardly seem to make the record clear and the RJC declines to do so.

Calling attention to the fact that the JDCA and Ms. Soifer do not regularly condemn antisemitism in the Democratic Party is far less offensive than a recent Tweet made by Ms. Soifer on April 29th that “the @RJC was shamefully silent for 4 yrs as our democracy was persistently & overtly attacked by Trump. They failed to acknowledge the outcome of the election for 60 days, giving fodder to a violent insurrection.” See <https://twitter.com/HalieSoifer/status/1387913678280876035?s=20> [twitter.com]

By your standard, the first statement is clearly false, because there are many examples where the RJC has been outspoken when it has disagreed with President Trump and elements of the Republican Party. For example, see <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/08/16/republican-jewish-coalition-breaks-with-trump-on-charlottesville-asks-for-greater-moral-clarity/> [washingtonpost.com] [smex12-5-entp.trendmicro.com] Then accusing the RJC of feeding a violent insurrection was defamatory by accusing the RJC of a crime for which there is absolutely no basis. Should the RJC demand that these statements be deleted the same as you have done to the RJC?

Ezra W. Reese, Esq.

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Getting back to the Tweet about which you are complaining, the RJC believes that a careful examination of the record will show that the JDCA consistently remains silent in the face of vicious antisemitism from leading Democrats. In contrast, the RJC has a decade's long track record of acting forcefully and speaking out whenever antisemitism has reared its ugly head in the Republican Party, as well as the Democratic party, among independents and in the media. The RJC is not selective in its intolerance.

The RJC's Tweet is in the nature of protected political speech and hyperbole. It posed a rhetorical question that could have been answered simply that the JDCA did condemn such antisemitism in February 2019. That way, the public record would be clear. In any event, the RJC will be sure to make reference to the February 2019 condemnation in its public response to this matter so this information will be made known. If there are any other instances where your clients have condemned antisemitism among elements of the Democratic Party, they have the opportunity to publicize that as well.

The public will be best informed by making the record clear and having a free exchange of ideas and positions unfettered by intimidation and legal threats.

If forced to do so, the RJC is prepared to respond in kind, but will not be silenced.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey P. Altman

JPA:mcb