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April 14, 2014

Ms. Chelsea Schilling
World Net Daily

VIA EMAIL: cschilling@wnd.com

RE: Douglas Phillips, Esq., Mrs. Elizabeth Beall Phillips, and Vision Forum, Inc.
WND Article

Dear Ms. Schilling:

Our firm has been retained as local litigation counsel by Douglas Phillips, Esq., Mrs. Phillips and Vision Forum, Inc. with regard to the allegations and claims made by Ms. Lourdes Torres-Manteufel and published to third-parties.

In the past, because there has been the threat of civil litigation in this matter, Mr. Phillips has been counseled by this law firm not to respond to questions posed by individuals or the press.

Nevertheless, please find the following statement written on behalf of my client:

“As potential legal actions may be taken by the parties and considering the purported legal claims made by Mrs. Lourdes Torres-Manteufel this firm generally believes it would be imprudent to address her sensational claims further than they are strictly and generally denied. To date, a media campaign has been architected to destroy and demoralize Doug Phillips, his family and his message, without justification and instead with conjecture and disinformation.

“The claims made by Mrs. Lourdes Torres-Manteufel, who just recently married this weekend to Mr. Nolan Manteufel, are false, defamatory and made with malicious intent to destroy Doug Phillips, his family and his ministry. While it may be true that Mr. Phillips had an intermittent relationship with Mrs. Lourdes Torres-Manteufel, they never had the physical intimacy of touching of and/or the exposure of genitalia, nor did the intermittent relationship escalate to sexual intercourse. Furthermore, the evidence demonstrates the relationship was consensual and often initiated, encouraged, and aggressively perpetuated by Mrs. Torres-Manteufel. It was welcomed, consensual and one in which Mrs. Torres-Manteufel repeatedly requested money, trips, jewelry, and numerous special favors from Doug Phillips. This relationship occurred well after Mrs. Lourdes Torres-Manteufel reached the age of majority, as has been confirmed by Mrs. Torres-Manteufel to have begun at the close of 2007. In no way did Mr. Doug Phillips use his position to “manipulate, brainwash and [or] coerce” her as alleged by Mrs. Torres-Manteufel. Mr. Phillips was an elder in the church she attended, but he was not her personal pastor, counselor, or ever her landlord. It is now evident that Mrs. Torres-Manteufel’s intent is to seek financial benefit and/or personal gain.

“The more one looks into Mrs. Torres-Manteufel’s claims, the more questions arise as to her credibility and motives for bringing forth these claims in the media rather than the courts. Over the course of the last sixteen (16) months, Mrs. Torres-Manteufel has offered conflicting and contradictory accounts to many individuals in her community. The claims she has made in her initial demand letter are false and barred by the statute of limitations, misleading, and/or are not recognized as valid legal claims. What has been confirmed is that her initial claims were wildly exaggerated and have often changed to such an extent as to raise great question to her credibility and motives for making the initial claims from the onset.

“Although we wish her great happiness in her new marriage, the fact that her husband previously has attempted to profit from her defamatory claims, through the online sale of articles on the subject, raises more questions about the claimant’s credibility and motives.

“In the absence of any serious interest from Mrs. Torres-Manteufel for Christian conciliation, and rather than trying the case through the media we intend to rely on justice through the courts for our clients’ vindication. Mr. Phillips resigned voluntarily out of personal choice—after much prayer and counsel. His silence should not be misconstrued as an admission of any kind but instead as a desire for privacy. Mr. Phillips’ resignation letter was made as a servant of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to preserve the integrity of his family and that of the Message of Christ which was received by and through his ministry.”

If you should have any questions regarding the above matter, please contact my office.

Sincerely Yours,

Diaz Jakob, LLC
Attorneys at Law;

By: 

Jason J. Jakob, Esq.

JJJ/jap

cc: Douglas Phillips, Esq.
Mrs. Beall Phillips
Dale Wallace, Esq.