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June 17, 2008

Mr. Jason Carlton  
237 Old Quarry Road  
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Greetings Mr. Carlton:

I represent Dr. Tom Bowman in land and other matters. I am not a trial lawyer, so do not consider this to be a “going to trial” letter. This letter concerns the libelous remarks which you placed, or caused to be placed, on your website, [www.gowilkes.com](http://www.gowilkes.com). My purpose is to educate you on some of the ways of the world. I hope you have time to consult the dictionary to find the words “libel” and “slander”. Also look up the word “tort”. These legal terms are working tools that lawyers joyously hurl in court.

Dr. Tom informs me that you have carelessly committed legally actionable libel and he is one inch away from going to a trial attorney to start a lawsuit. However, you have recently removed the most egregious libelous remarks from your website. This deletion has earned you a brief reprieve. This still does not erase the fact that the act of libel was made, and it is still out there in cyberspace “for all time.” Therefore, during this interlude it is important that you pay close attention to the following advice.

Professional journalists should know first that truth is a legal defense in court to charges of libel and slander. This means that you should not only speak the truth but you must also know that witnesses must be available to testify to the truth in a court trial. The burden will be on you to get others to court to present facts to a jury.

Beyond this point the jury will look at the weight of the evidence and the way you present your version of the truth on your website and in other forums. They will consider any statements made, whether on your website or from spoken and written remarks made by you, or by others who have attributed such remarks to you. All this would be sorted out after a long period of trial preparation – with interrogatories, depositions, and other lawyer tools of trial discovery. Fact finders, private investigators, and others would be employed to aid in this procedure.