

Law Offices Of
GARY S. SOTER
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

EMAIL

December 27, 2016

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

Ms. Nancy Dubuc, CEO
A+E Television Networks

In care of:

Kelli L. Sager
Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP

Re: A&E Series on Scientology

Dear Ms. Dubuc:

Recently, A&E was compelled to pull *Generation KKK/Escaping the KKK* after the network discovered that participants in the program received “nominal” payments from the producers. A&E publicly announced that “these payments are a direct violation of A&E’s policies and practices for a documentary.” Church of Scientology International understands that two on-air accusers/participants in Leah Remini’s docuseries, *Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath* (Mike Rinder and Leah Remini) received substantial cash payments for their participation, in violation of the same standards.

The participation of Rinder and Remini in the series is clearly not limited to providing background consulting, interviewing or producing services. Mike Rinder and Leah Remini are the most prominent and visible sources for many of the allegations aired in this series. An entire program, the second in the series, was devoted to Mike Rinder’s “complaints,” and he was compensated for this. Leah Remini’s personal experiences also featured

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prominently in the series opener and in subsequent episodes. Leah Remini's attorney sent two letters to the Church demanding payments to her of \$500,000 and \$1 million based on her allegation that the Church wrongfully interfered with her contract to produce the series.

Other subjects of Ms. Remini's episodes have received in-kind payments in the form of free advertising and promotion for anti-Scientology books they have published. A&E has gone out of its way to mention the titles and display photos of the book jackets. This quid pro quo aimed at gaining access to these individuals is similar in effect—although more substantial—to the “nominal” payments made to the Ku Klux Klan members which caused A&E to pull that series.

Several of the participants in the Remini show have spent years as professional anti-Scientologists, exploiting their former faith by selling books, feeding false stories to supermarket tabloids, working for contingency fee attorneys suing the Church or trying to shake the Church down for money via litigation and threats of litigation. We also know Ms. Remini tried to recruit anti-Scientologists, dangling “executive producer” credits (for which they would presumably be paid).

A&E has applied its policies and practices in an invidious and discriminatory manner. We can think of no justification for A&E's hypocrisy. It is hypocritical for A&E to proclaim its intent to “expose and combat racism and hatred in all its forms” in cancelling the KKK show and at the same time promote Leah Remini's program which promotes the hatred that A&E claims that it wants to stop. Indeed, since the series first aired, Remini's show incited an onslaught of more than 100 hate postings, which includes at least 50 threats of death or violence directed at the Church, its members and/or leadership. Just a few examples of these include: “I hope he burns in a house fire” and “I'm gonna assassinate” him and “Literally gonna torch down every scientology center.” A person in another jurisdiction posted, “You should all kill yourselves. Or come to my neighborhood and let me do it for you.” The poster included photos of his assault rifle online, and the threat was recorded by the local Sheriff's Office as a “terrorist threat via computer.” In Tampa, a man tore a cross off the Church and ran away. The crime was reported to the Tampa Police and will be pursued for prosecution of a hate crime.

On December 26, the night A&E re-aired Ms. Remini's episodes, one individual emailed: “*You are all f-----!!! Go A & E for exposing more than I know. I knew it was a cult but not like this. Come to my house meet my 9mm Glock, federal agent!*” The LAPD has opened a file and is taking these threats seriously.

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Following tonight's episode, yet another individual threatened to assault the leader of the religion and another expressed the hope that Church staff and parishioners "die in a fire slowly."

The hate mail directed at the Church is based on the religious invective in Remini's show, as evidenced by the fact that the same unproved and disputed allegations are repeated in the tweets, emails and postings, usually with the hashtag for Remini's show.

The Church of Scientology respectfully demands fair and equal treatment. There is no reason for A&E to depart from its stated "policies and practices" with regard to the Remini program. To date, A&E has deemed it acceptable for Slauson Productions LLC, to pay *substantial* sums of cash to its on-air participants in Leah Remini's so-called "documentary" series *Scientology and the Aftermath* while at the same time deeming "nominal payments" to participants in the *Generation KKK* series as unacceptable conduct in the making of a documentary, requiring withdrawal of the program.

Very truly yours,

THE LAW OFFICES OF GARY S. SOTER
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/s/

GARY S. SOTER

GSS/gps