



**LAPOLT LAW**

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Dina LaPolt  
Sabrina Ment  
Heidy Vaquerano

November 3, 2011

**VIA EMAIL, FACSIMILE,  
AND CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

American Media, Inc.

Attn: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Re: Chaz Bono / Publicity**

Dear [REDACTED]

This office represents Chaz Bono.

I am writing regarding your blatantly false and defamatory article with the headline **“Chaz Bono – Only 4 Years to Live!”** printed in the November 14, 2011 issue of the *National Enquirer*. The outrageous headline and article clearly imply that Mr. Bono will suffer an early death due to his gender transition. This is absolutely outrageous, false, fabricated and highly defamatory. The salacious and inflammatory headline and article were crafted for the malicious purpose of discriminating against our client’s gender and sexual orientation.

You allege that “obesity, testosterone supplements, past depression and high suicide rates among transgendered people all increase Chaz’s risk of an early death.” Not only is this outrageous statement repugnant to Mr. Bono personally, but it is also patently offensive to and openly discriminates against the transgender community as a whole. Further, the statements you attribute to Dr. Patrick Wanis and your depiction of him as a medical doctor specializing in transgender health issues are highly misleading and blatantly false. He is not a physician and has no specialty in transgender issues. It is shocking and disappointing that your publication would engage in such a smear campaign and character assassination of our client based on a source who clearly has no knowledge of any facts about Mr. Bono or his condition. To make matters worse, numerous other news sources have quoted from, referenced and re-published the article.

The statements in the article are false and demonstrate actual malice. Your publication of these outrageous and defamatory falsehoods have been incredibly damaging to our client. We hereby demand the following to try to mitigate the substantial damage that has been caused to our client as a result of your malicious recklessness:

- (i) Publish an immediate apology and public retraction;
- (ii) Provide the apology and retraction to other publications who are relying on the article;
- (iii) Refrain from making any further false or defamatory misrepresentations about Mr. Bono; and
- (iv) Confirm your compliance with the above to me within **twenty-four (24) hours** of your receipt of this letter.

We trust that you will comply with these demands and remedy the situation. If the *National Enquirer* persists in making such false and misleading comments, our client will immediately commence an action against your publication seeking substantial compensatory, consequential and punitive damages, injunctive relief and recovery of future earnings.

Nothing contained herein or omitted herefrom shall be deemed to be an admission by our client of any fact as to any matter or a waiver or full explication of any of our client's rights, remedies, contentions, damages or defenses with respect to the subject matter hereof, in law, in equity or otherwise, all of which are hereby expressly reserved.

Sincerely,

  
Dina LaPolt

cc:

Chaz Bono (via email)  
Howard Bragman (via email)  
Sabrina Ment, Esq. (via email)  
A. Sasha Frid, Esq. (via email)  
Kristina Wertz, Esq., Transgender Law Center (via email)  
Katrina Bleckley (via email)