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February 28, 2011

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ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

Attn: Robert G. Sugarman, Nat'l Chair

VIA EMAIL: Afoxman@adl.org

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

Attn: Abraham H. Foxman, Nat'l Director

Re: Charlie Sheen / Anti-Defamation League, et al.

Gentlemen:

We are litigation counsel to Charlie Sheen. We are shocked and disappointed that the Anti-Defamation League has been disseminating malicious false statements to the effect that my client is anti-Semitic. Outrageous defamatory statements have been made on the ADL's behalf by Abraham H. Foxman, falsely asserting that my client has exhibited "borderline anti-Semitism" on the basis that my client referred to Chuck Lorre by what the ADL describes as a "Jewish name" (Chaim Levine), for the purported purpose of indicating my client's dislike of Mr. Lorre due to "his Jewishness." This is patently untrue and highly defamatory. A retraction is hereby demanded.¹

Mr. Sheen referred to Chuck Lorre as Chaim Levine after Chuck Lorre used that name to identify himself in a vanity card that aired on national television on "Mike & Molly" just three weeks ago. In it, he wrote: "How did Chaim become Chuck? How did Levine become Lorre?" My client was not using a derogatory "Jewish name" for Mr. Lorre to express purported disdain based on "his Jewishness." My client's intention was to refer to Mr. Lorre by the name Mr. Lorre acknowledged as his own in order to address the man rather than his television persona. As my client has aptly noted, he would not consider it anti-Latino any time someone refers to him by his given name, Carlos Estevez.

Ironically, in his recent vanity card published on February 7, 2011, Mr. Lorre *né* Levine himself went on to disparage Judaism and its teachings, describing them as "bull\$#!." In that vanity card, Mr. Lorre wrote of a lifetime of distancing himself from Judaism, and he castigated the religion and its teachings, rejecting one of its most fundamental precepts — that the Jews are the chosen people. He wrote:

...why have I spent a lifetime moving away from that group? How did Chaim become Chuck? How did Levine become Lorre? The only answer I come up with is this: When I was a little boy in Hebrew school the rabbis regularly told us that we were the chosen people. That we were God's favorites. Which is all well and good except that I went home, observed my family and, despite my tender age, thought to myself, "bull\$#!."

¹The ADL's false statements have been widely disseminated, including for example in a *Los Angeles Daily News* article reached via hyperlink from the ADL's website. E.g., <http://www.adl.org/press-center.asp?s=topmenu>, http://www.dailynews.com/ci_17481621?source=most_viewed.

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Thus, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Sheen used the name identified by Mr. Lorre himself just a few weeks ago, and notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Lorre's written acknowledgment that "Chaim become Chuck" and "Levine become Lorre" was contained in what would itself be fairly characterized as an anti-Semitic diatribe, the ADL is portraying my client — not Mr. Lorre — as an anti-Semite. This is outrageous. Publication of a retraction and correction is demanded.

Thus, while the ADL is quick to denounce perceived anti-Semitism emanating from non-Jews, this time it has done so at the expense of the truth. I find it ironic that Mr. Lorre, who has acknowledged his disdain for the Jewish religion, has not been denounced by the ADL, yet my client was characterized as anti-Semitic simply because he repeated the very name used by Mr. Lorre to refer to himself (not the ADL's characterization of it as his "Jewish name"). Investigation of the facts here before making defamatory denunciations of my client would have revealed the strong undercurrent of anti-Semitism and lifetime of distancing himself from Judaism's teachings evident in Chuck Lorre's recent vanity card.

We would expect that before an organization as respected as the ADL paints someone as an anti-Semite they would investigate the facts. That obviously did not occur here. The ADL should do the right thing and issue a public retraction of the false and defamatory assertions that my client is anti-Semitic and that his statements are "borderline anti-Semitism."

Publication of an appropriate retraction is demanded.

This does not constitute a complete or exhaustive statement of all of my client's rights or claims. Nothing stated herein is intended as, nor should it be deemed to constitute, a waiver or relinquishment of any of my client's rights or remedies, whether legal or equitable, all of which are hereby expressly reserved.

Sincerely,



MARTIN D. SINGER

MDS/lg

cc: Mr. Charlie Sheen (via email)
Mr. Oren Koules (via email)
Mr. Mark Burg (via email)
Jacob A. Bloom, Esq. (via email)
Lynda B. Goldman, Esq.