
Editor's Note

This issue is the third of three entirely devoted to articles first presented as papers at our 2018 symposium, *Fake News and "Weaponized Defamation": Global Perspectives*. As a complement to the previous two issues, the scholarship in this collection exemplifies the quality and diversity of the ideas and perspectives shared at that remarkable symposium.

The first article, "RICO as a Case-study in Weaponizing Defamation and the International Response to Corporate Censorship," by Charlie Holt and Daniel Simons, laments how corporate use of the U.S.'s Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act adds to the corrosive impact of SLAPPs on free speech. Holt and Simons, legal counsel to Greenpeace International, navigate the direct and immediate implications of international human rights law on business interests seeking to use SLAPP actions as a means for private censorship.

In "The Defamation of Foreign State Leaders in Times of Globalized Media and Growing Nationalism," Alexander Heinze uses the example of the *Böhmermann* affair in Germany to argue against the abolishment of laws that criminalize defamation of heads of state. The author, an Assistant Professor at the University of Göttingen, posits that states which criminalize attacks on foreign government officials should also permit actions for defamation, subject to constitutional speech protections.

"Defamation Law in Russia in the context of the Council of Europe (CoE) Standards on Media Freedom," is by Elena Sherstoboeva, an Assistant Professor at the School of Creative Media and the School of Law at the University of Hong Kong. Informed by the CoE standards, Professor Sherstoboeva compares the ways in which defamation is conceived by two of Russia's highest courts, the Constitutional and Supreme Courts, and reviews how defamation cases are adjudicated in Russian's courts of initial jurisdiction.

Wannes Vandebussche, in "Rethinking Non-Pecuniary Remedies for Defamation: The Case for Court-Ordered Apologies," uses a comparative law analysis to argue that apologies are an overlooked remedy in Western legal tradition that merit reconsideration in jurisdictions that have abandoned

it. Dr. Vandebussche is an assistant professor of civil procedure at Ghent University in Belgium and a recent Fulbright Fellow at Yale Law School.

As we bring this issue to publication, I want to express my gratitude to outgoing student editors Grace Khanlian and Lauren Landau, who supervised our student staff through the last half-year under less-than-ideal circumstances. The Coronavirus Pandemic has been a challenging time for all of us in 2020. As we begin to emerge from this worldwide calamity, the *Journal* is looking forward to publishing scholarship that engages the pandemic's impact on entertainment and media law and practice.

As always, your comments, suggestions, and feedback are welcome.

Professor Michael M. Epstein
Supervising Editor