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Carla Sonntag Sues New Mexico Republican Party for Defamation

New Mexico Business Coalition President Challenges RPNM to Make Investigation Results Public

Albuquerque, NM (Jan. 4, 2017)—The president of the New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) today filed a defamation lawsuit against the Republican Party of New Mexico (RPNM). Carla Sonntag told RPNM leaders she wants false claims they made about her retracted, as well an apology for their recklessness that continues to harm her reputation.

“Republican leaders need to be clear that they do not control every corner of the pro-market community in our state,” stated Ms. Sonntag. “RPNM leaders will regret careless assaults on pro-market activists who choose to stay out of party politics.”

Sonntag served the RPNM with a letter on Dec. 8, in which she demanded the party stop telling RPNM members it has “irrefutable proof” she was behind anonymous posts that were critical of candidates seeking to chair the party. The letter gave the RPNM five days to respond, which was intended to give candidates running for the position time to complete their campaigns without distraction. Ms. Sonntag agreed to requests for additional time to allow the new chairman, Ryan Cangioli, to respond, and told the RPNM it must provide evidence of its claim by Dec. 30 or face a lawsuit. She instructed her attorneys at the Kansas City, MO law firm of Graves Garrett to file the suit after the RPNM asked for 30 more days.

Ms. Sonntag also demanded the party make public a “report” it claims shows the anonymous posts came from computers owned by her or her family. RPNM leaders will not say who prepared the report, what “irrefutable proof” it describes, or who authorized the operation that led to the false claims against her.

“You cannot smear my good name and then ask for weeks or months to apologize,” stated Sonntag. “Every Republican in New Mexico should ask the RPNM why it is hiding a report about me that I am asking to be made public.”

The lawsuit was filed in the 2nd Judicial District Court in Bernalillo County, NM. A copy of the lawsuit and the Dec. 8 demand letter to the RPNM may be obtained by contacting Carla Sonntag.

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