

July 10, 2009

**By Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested;
Facsimile (404) 526-8553; and
Email awall@georgiawatch.org**

Ms. Allison Wall
Executive Director
Georgia Watch
55 Marietta Street, NW
Suite 903
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Wall:

I represent Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Inc. and Phoebe Putney Health System, Inc. ("Phoebe Putney"). It has come to my attention that Georgia Watch has published accusations of corruption against Phoebe Putney on its Internet website www.georgiawatch.org. Specifically, on or about July 8, 2009, the website published the following statement:

Georgia Watch is excited to host a screening of Do No Harm, a documentary by Rebecca Schanberg. The film chronicles the actions of two whistleblowers who uncover corruption and inappropriate financial practices at Phoebe Putney hospital in Albany.

On information and belief, this same statement was also published by Georgia Watch in a widely distributed email and press release.

On July 9, 2009, the website published the following statement:

Please check back for information on the rescheduling of Do No Harm, a documentary by Rebecca Schanberg that chronicles the actions of two whistleblowers at Phoebe Putney Hospital in Albany, Georgia who uncovered far-reaching corruption.

The above-referenced statements convey to the average reader that Phoebe Putney has engaged in illegal conduct. Specifically, the use of the word "corruption," which is defined in relevant part, as, "inducement to wrong by improper or unlawful means (as bribery)," falsely conveys that as a matter of fact, illegal practices occurred at Phoebe Putney and were uncovered by the self-described whistleblowers – false statements that are defamatory per se.

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Phoebe Putney and its officers or employees have never engaged in corrupt practices and have never engaged in any illegal conduct. Your organization's false and defamatory accusations of corruption were published with a reckless disregard for the truth as you have blatantly ignored the fact that there is absolutely no evidence to support the statements at issue. Furthermore, your organization is well aware of the unreliable and biased sources relied upon in connection with the so-called documentary that the Website seeks to promote, including John Bagnato, Charles Rehberg and convicted felon, Richard "Dickie" Scruggs.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 51-5-11, Phoebe Putney hereby demands that Georgia Watch take the following action:

- (i) immediately remove from its website (including all Internet cache of same) the false and defamatory statements described above and publish a retraction of the accusations on the Website, said retraction being published in as conspicuous and public manner in which the original libelous statements were published;
- (ii) immediately distribute a retraction of the statement(s) distributed by email and press release(s) by the same means and published in as conspicuous and manner as the original libelous statements were published; and
- (iii) immediately cease and desist from publishing in the future false and defamatory accusations conveying that Phoebe Putney has or is engaged in corrupt, illegal or unethical conduct.

Demand is made that items (i) through (iii) above be accomplished no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, July 13, 2009.

Govern yourself accordingly.

With regards,



L. Lin Wood

LLW/b

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