## FAKE NEWS & THE FAKE LAW THAT PROTECTS IT IN TEXAS FAKE LAW PROTECTS Houston Chronicle eaponized media gets FOX **ANCHOR** FIRED FOR News Reporter Bubble of FREE Non-Participation. No use of SPEECH Freedom of Speech, Petition & Association Unless they break it and es TCPA participate in event and/or notice To get out of readers of their expression of opinon Libel Suit rather than facts SPEECH & he

"Fake news" is a term that has been coined recently by the "mainstream media" to stigmatize any alternative source of news that might be embarrassing to "mainstream news." But the recent Trump campaign has illustrated how the mainstream media itself resorted to making fake news to defeat Trump unsuccessfully. They insisted that Trump was working with Putin and the Russians to hack the Democratic National Convention emails and leak them to the public via Wikileaks. Those articles in the alternative media that challenged those accusations were labeled "fake news."

The Trump campaign confused many mainstream media journalists concerning their code of ethics. And the current condition of the law is not helping them either. Scarlett Fakhar, a beautiful FOX news anchor in Houston, was fired on 11/17/16 for expressing on her Facebook page her joy that Trump was elected. The Houston Chronicle published what she had posted on Facebook and FOX was compelled to fire her as a result. This is because all news reporters are trained to avoid all participation in the issues and news they cover. The reason is to maintain the public perception that the reporter is unbiased. After Scarlett apologized for her expression of free speech she began to defend herself by saying that liberal journalist express their views and get away with it. She made her firing an issue of an unfair double standard between "conservative" versus "liberal" free speech. There may be some truth to that as well.

However, it is still true that this standard of non-participation and restraint from expression of free speech by news reporters is taught throughout the profession and schools of journalism. It is also recognized that news commentators have more liberty to express their own views such as what we hear on talk-radio and see on talk-TV.

Now here is the more **important irony** of this story: I personally sued, Dylan Baddour, a Houston Chronicle news reporter for libel for reporting facts that were false

and using other written and graphic material to create a fake domestic terror alert on the weekend of 9/11/15. The owner of the Houston Chronicle, Hearst Communications, Inc. and the reporter used the new Texas Citizen Participation Act to file a Motion to Dismiss before any discovery could take place, short circuiting the judicial system. In order to use this Motion-to-Dismiss provision of the Act the defendant must show that they were exercising their freedom of speech in the communication for which they were sued. But a reporter is not supposed to do that!

FIRED!

The Chronicle got Scarlett Fakhar fired for expressing her freedom of speech on her personal Facebook page. But when the Houston Chronicle was sued for libel in a news story, they claim their reporter was exercising his freedom of speech, but they did not fire him. This is fake law that protects fake news. The libel case filed on 11/3/15 was dismissed and the dismissal was affirmed at the 4th Court of Appeals on 8/10/16 and the Petition for Review was Denied at the Supreme Court on 12/2/16 and my Motion for Rehearing was denied on 1/27/17.

Therefore, we see clearly that Hearst Communication Inc., and the Houston Chronicle are well aware that their reporters cannot express their own freedom of speech in order to use the TCPA. But they maintain that their reporter was expressing his right of free speech when he was sued for libel. This is a contradiction of ethics and law maintained by the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas supported by major media and the lawyers they fund (FOIFT.ORG). These laws protect weaponized media when they harm citizens even to further an agenda to make citizens into terrorists.

## **By: Ron Avery**

This article combines fact and opinion about issues in the news. The pictures of Scarlett Fakhar and Dylan Baddour were taken from their Facebook pages. See libel suit at <a href="PostWTC.com/avc.html">PostWTC.com/avc.html</a> See Motion for Rehearing: <a href="PostWTC.com/avb-sc-mreh-with-exhibits.pdf">PostWTC.com/avb-sc-mreh-with-exhibits.pdf</a>

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