



Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Christopher Naughton, Esq.  
The American Law Journal

*Via Email: [info@lawjournaltv.com](mailto:info@lawjournaltv.com)*

Dear Mr. Naughton,

As the leading legal organization for LGBT attorneys in the nation, we felt it necessary to bring to your attention the very problematic nature of your recent piece, "Pronoun Wars: The Law & Transgender America."

While we absolutely recognize the importance of - and even celebrate - addressing transgender rights and the laws that surround these issues in public fora, it is unconscionable that you would allow an attorney from the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) to participate without explanation. The Southern Poverty Law Center classifies ADF as a hate group no different than any white supremacist or Neo-Nazi groups thriving throughout this country.

Relying on the journalistic rubric that "all sides must be represented" is not enough when one side makes its living trading on the basest emotions in human nature - hate and violence - to make its case. The ADF, and by extension its representative Mr. Sharp, routinely employ scare tactics that have no basis in reality. Mr. Sharp has no substantive arguments in law - or indeed in science - to support his positions. Yet, in his smooth, professional manner, and with an Esq. behind his name, he traffics in known lies. His message is not only dangerous - but in fact, deadly - to the LGBT community, especially our children at risk of suicide. And even worse yet, his vicious intent hides behind the veneer of respectability granted to him by the legal profession, and now regrettably, your television program.

With the decision to feature Mr. Sharp in this conversation, we cannot help but to question both your motives in regard to this piece and your larger goals as a journalist within a news outlet. To publish this piece with no acknowledgment as to the ADF's official status as a hate group and to allow its mouthpiece an unfettered and unquestioned opportunity to push its uninformed and hate-fueled positions is simply unacceptable. After all, a simple internet search would have provided you with its designation as a certified hate group. Or, in the alternative, did you know of the organization's status as a hate group and simply choose to ignore it?

We demand an apology to the other panelists featured and to the greater LGBT community. I look forward to receiving your response. You may reach me at (202) 637-7663 or [darcy@lgbtbar.org](mailto:darcy@lgbtbar.org).

Regards,

D'Arcy Kemnitz  
Executive Director