

# KLAYMAN LAW GROUP

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VIA FEDEX AND EMAIL

**URGENT – FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

January 15, 2023

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**Re: Demand Under Florida Statute § 770.01 for Public Apology, Retraction and Removal of Defamatory Broadcast and Discipline of Jake Tapper and Bob Costas.**

Gentlemen:

Late last week, CNN and Jake Tapper, along with CNN's sports reporter Bob Costas, aired a highly defamatory piece titled "The Court Fight Between PGA Tour and LIV Golf Escalates as the Saudi-backed LIV Tries to Avoid Handing Over Information."

This widely viewed broadcast in Florida, the nation and internationally, was not only defamatory but also designed to incite ridicule, hatred and violence against LIV Golf players, such as my client Patrick Reed, a world champion professional golfer, by publishing that he takes "blood money" from the Saudi Public Investment Fund, in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy twenty-two (22) years ago. The article also, at a minimum, falsely implies that he using a lawsuit, of which he is not even a party, to dig up data, track down, intimidate and harass 9/11 victim families. The broadcast republishes with reckless disregard for the truth, a prior Bloomberg article, and references the Bloomberg article in the broadcast. See attached.

At one time, I had known Jake Tapper to a moderately honest journalist and commentator, but after the election of President Donald Trump, he sold his soul to the hierarchy of CNN, then headed by rabid Trump-hater Jeff Zucker. Ever since, CNN and Tapper pliantly have been on a crusade to destroy Trump, which crusade apparently appeals to CNN's generally leftist viewership, and reaps profit for the network. Interestingly, a person with the last name Zucker is referenced in the subject broadcast.

While Jeff Zucker has since been fired at the CEO of CNN over alleged misconduct with a subordinate at CNN, his legacy as a Trump-hater lives on and Tapper continues his unhinged vicious attacks on not just Trump but anyone and anything associated with him, such as LIV Golf, which simply played two events at the former president's golfing venues in New Jersey and Florida last year, which LIV Golf payed for.

Needless to say, in addition all of the other misleading and false statements about LIV Golf in the subject broadcast, which at a minimum amount to defamation per se, defamation generally, and defamation by implication under Florida law, having branded Mr. Reed – and clearly what is published is "of and concerning" him as LIV Golf player and thus a taker of "blood money" as Tapper put it, this defamation is clearly actionable as to Mr. Reed.

Mr. Reed is not a taker of "blood money," as he simply plays on a golf tour financed by the Saudi Public Investment Fund, which also owns large shares in a myriad of American companies such as Disney, Boeing, J.P. Morgan Chase, Amazon, Blackrock Inc., Microsoft and many others. Indeed, many sponsors of the PGA Tour benefit from this investment fund, and PGA Tour players have recently been granted releases by the PGA Tour to play in the Saudi International Golf Tournament in Jeddah, on February 2-5, 2023, also financed by the Saudi Public Investment Fund. Aramco, the oil company owned by the government of Saudi Arabia, also sponsors and finances a number of LPGA events. Are you accusing female professional golfers of also taking "blood money?"

Tapper, Costas and CNN are therefore on notice that if an on air public apology is not immediately made to Mr. Reed and the broadcast removed and retracted from CNN's websites, streaming services and other forms of publication, in order to mitigate the damage which they

have caused, as well as discipline meted out to Tapper and Costas, we reserve the right after five (5) days to sue Tapper, Costas and CNN pursuant to Florida Statute 770.01 for damages well in excess of \$450,000,000 dollars which includes compensatory, actual, special and punitive damages.

In recent years, it is no coincidence CNN has been hit with similar defamation suits, which it has been forced to settle, such as with Nick Sandman, an innocent young person who it smeared as a white supremacist and racist.

Apparently, CNN and its television hosts, have not learned their lesson, this time using the more than willing Tapper and Costas as its dishonest vehicle to despicably increase viewership for profit.

Govern yourselves accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Klayman', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry Klayman, Esq.  
Counsel for Patrick Reed

cc: Patrick Reed

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VIA FEDEX AND EMAIL

**URGENT – FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

January 5, 2023

Mr. Michael R. Bloomberg  
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**Re: Demand Under Florida Statute § 770.01 to Retract and Remove January 4 2023, Article titled “Saudi-Backed LIV Golf Is Using PGA Suit to Get Data on 9/11 Families, Court Told”**

Gentlemen:

The above titled and attached article, which is running on Bloomberg L.P., and is being republished and proliferated throughout the United States and the world, is not just misleading, false and defamatory in many respects, it is also a calculated effort, obviously arranged by the PGA Tour and its public relations firm Clout Public Affairs, to incite violence against my client Patrick Reed, a LIV player whose picture is prominently featured in the story, as well as other LIV players and personnel.

The gist of this outrageous article is not only prefaced in its title but in the second paragraph when you write “It’s (meaning the issue of 9/11 family victims) has taken a more sinister turn.”

To the contrary the sinister aspect of this story is not legitimate discovery in pending court cases, but the overt transparent effort by the PGA Tour and its agents, such as Clout, to use the horrible

tragedy of 9/11 to whip up hatred against LIV Golf and its players, in an anticompetitive scheme to destroy the new golf league.

This effort recently reared its ugly head at the LIV event last October at Trump National in Doral, Florida, when a bomb threat stopped play. Mr. Reed's wife, family friends and I were with Mr. Reed at the time and experienced first-hand the horrific and emotional effects of this threat. Prior to this, advertisements had been running on Miami television excoriating and defaming LIV players, associating them with the 9/11 tragedy, claiming that they were taking blood money from a terrorist regime. These advertisements were likely arranged for and paid by an entity such as Clout, under the direction of the PGA Tour, LIV Golf's competitor.

Mr. Bloomberg, I remember well your support for the imam of the proposed Cordoba Mosque, which was to be built at Ground Zero, when you were mayor in New York City. For you and your reporter to now participate in playing the "9/11 card" against LIV Golf and LIV players is not only hypocritical, but also despicable.

According, on behalf of Mr. Reed, his family, friends and colleagues, I demand that you immediately take this article down, issue a public apology and severely discipline the reporter Erik Larson, who has endangered lives and most likely is in bed with the PGA Tour, as part and parcel to its anticompetitive acts.

If there is no immediate retraction, apology and severe disciplining of Mr. Larsen, we reserve the right to sue you, Mr. Larson and Bloomberg L.P. and related business entities after five (5) days.

Govern yourselves accordingly.

Sincerely,



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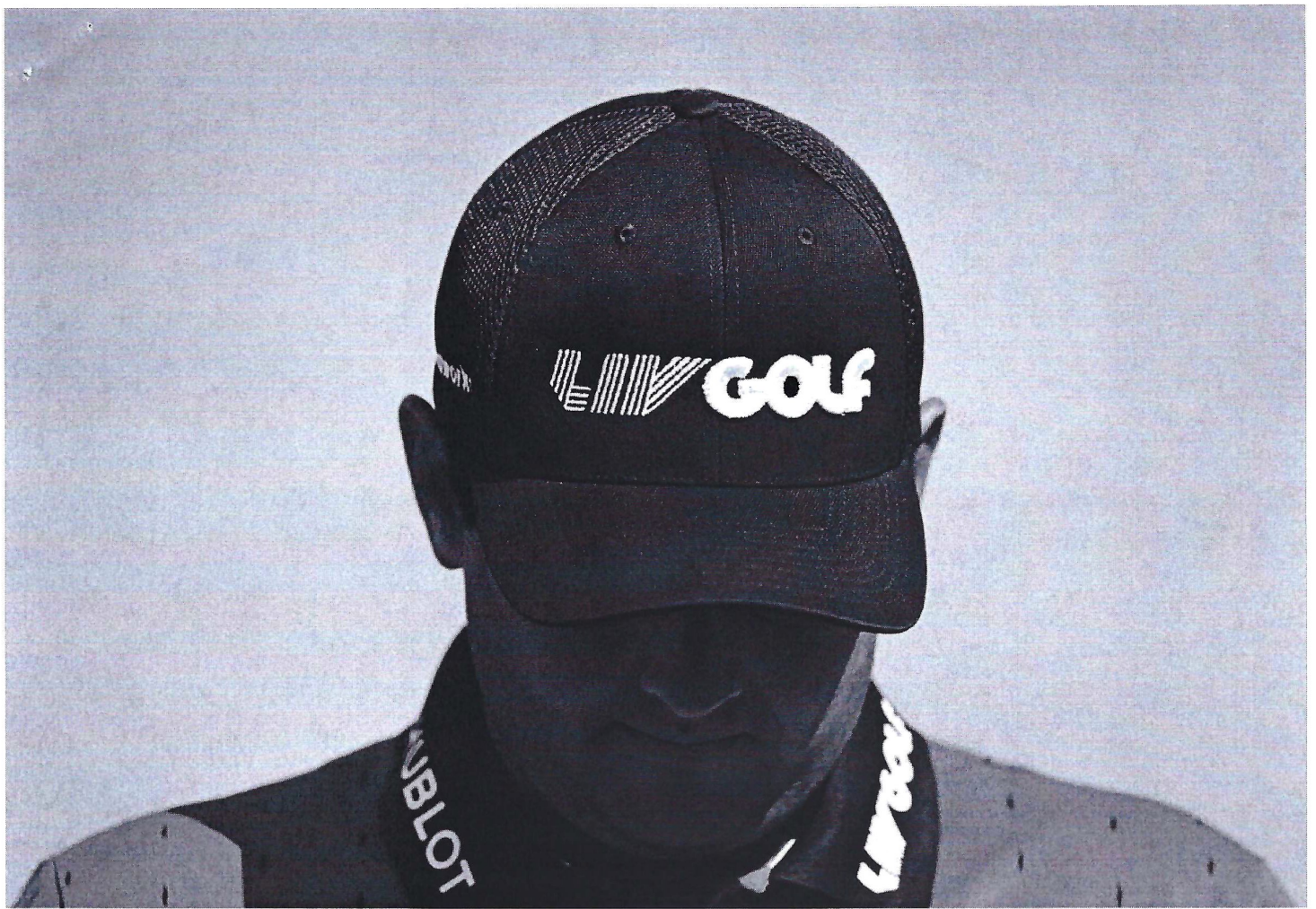
Larry Klayman, Esq.  
*Counsel for Patrick Nathaniel Reed*

cc: Mr. Patrick Reed

# **Saudi-Backed LIV Golf Is Using PGA Suit to Get Data on 9/11 Families, Court Told**

- PGA's PR firm says Saudis seek documents on unrelated clients
- LIV argues PGA used PR firm to coordinate 9/11 group protests





*Photographer: Glyn Kirk/AFP/Getty Images*

By Erik Larson

January 4, 2023, 7:06 AM PST *Updated on January 4, 2023, 10:44 AM PST*

Saudi Arabia-financed LIV Golf and its feud with PGA Tour Inc. has divided fans, tested players' allegiances and sparked legal battles.

It's now taken a more sinister turn.

LIV, backed by the \$676 billion Saudi sovereign wealth fund, was accused on Tuesday of using its US lawsuit against PGA to “build an intelligence file” on families of 9/11 victims who have been critical of the kingdom and its new professional golf circuit. The upstart has countered that the PGA is secretly running a “smear campaign” to take it down.



At the heart of the matter is PGA's public-relations firm, Clout Public Affairs. Led by an ex-chief of staff to US Senator Ted Cruz, one of its other clients is 9/11 Justice, which is involved in a separate suit against Saudi Arabia related to the 2001 terror attacks and other atrocities, including the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Now Clout is also challenging a subpoena issued by LIV and accusing the tour of tapping a third-party firm to track the 9/11 group.

“LIV has brazenly hired a firm in the United States to track and monitor the activities of these 9/11 victims and families, while simultaneously, through the underlying lawsuit, using antitrust discovery to now sift Clout's communications with these families, even if they have nothing to do with LIV, golf, or golfers,” Clout said in the filing.

LIV's lawyer, Keith Frost of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The legal wrangling marks a dramatic escalation in the fight between the two competing golf circuits, which until now has largely centered around the Saudi project luring some of the sport's biggest stars, including Phil Mickelson and Cameron Smith, with huge paychecks and unconventional tournaments.

### **'Sportswash' Accusations**

LIV critics have argued Saudi Arabia is using its splashy golf events – including two hosted at properties owned by former President Donald Trump – to “sportswash” the kingdom's well-documented human-rights abuses. When PGA began suspending players who left for LIV, the Saudi tour sued, calling the PGA an “entrenched monopolist” that was trying to choke off its supply of star



golfers.

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As part of the evidence-gathering process, LIV demanded that Clout hand over its communications with the PGA and any internal documents about the US tour. LIV last month sued to enforce the subpoena, arguing that the US golf tour had hired Clout in part to arrange for 9/11 families to protest at LIV events. LIV said it didn't buy the PGA's claim that it needed to protect US golf from the "taint" of Saudi Arabia.

"As it turns out, the PGA Tour itself has been secretly fomenting the very anti-Saudi sentiment that it now uses to justify its illegal conduct," LIV said in a motion to force Clout to comply with the subpoena.

LIV has said the PGA turned over evidence in the antitrust case demonstrating that it "organized and likely funded" the 9/11 families' protests.

Clout is balking at LIV's demands, contending it violates the First Amendment privilege between Clout and its client. It blasted the upstart for suggesting that the PGA needed to coordinate anti-Saudi sentiment in the US, accusing LIV of being in a "dream world."

"LIV's casual assumption that it is a simple golf league that was suddenly smeared with an unexpected political attack is utterly false," Clout said. "LIV

was conceived as a PR vehicle by Kingdom consultants as a last-ditch effort to dull the massive public backlash from the Khashoggi murder and other current events.”

[Read More: Saudi Wealth Fund Claims Immunity in PGA-LIV Golf US Court Fight](#)

Clout’s president is David Polyansky, who, along with serving as Cruz’s chief of staff, was a senior adviser to Scott Walker’s 2016 presidential campaign. Chief Operating Officer Samantha Dravis worked at the Environmental Protection Agency during the Trump administration.

Clout said the firm and 9/11 Justice have a “reasonable fear” that disclosure of their internal communications “will provoke retaliation.”

It said the subpoena could reveal phone numbers, individual names and email addresses, or information about plans to continue criticizing Saudi Arabia – all of which “could well lead to hacking or other retaliation.”

The case is LIV Golf v. Clout Public Affairs, 22-mc-00126, US District Court, District of Columbia (Washington, DC).

*(Updates throughout with details on the allegations.)*