Reputational Risk: Managing Perceptions with Image Repair

Jeff Hahn Hahn Public Communications Austin, TX

Tom Nesbitt DeShazo & Nesbitt L.L.P. Austin, TX





1 | Hahn Public Communications | 2018

D-1 CAUSE NO PASTOR JORDAN BROWN, Plaintiff,	-GN-16-001648 UISTRICT CIERK Travis County D-1-GN-16-001648 Ruben Tamez
v.	§ 9 OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS 9 8
WHOLE FOODS MARKET, INC. Defendant.	1 WA WA WA
PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE, AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
COMES NOW Plaintiff, Pastor Jordan Brown ("Pastor Jordan" or "Plaintiff") and files this	
Original Petition, Request for Disclosure, and Demand for Jury Trial against Defendant Whole Foods	
18. The Whole Foods bakery associate removed the cake selected by Pastor Jordan	
from the display case. She brought it over to the prep table and began writing on it in icing. She	
then sealed it with a Whole Foods sticker, and handed it to Pastor Jordan. Once it was sealed,	
there was no way to alter the cake without breaking the Whole Foods sticker.	
	2 Hahn Public Communications 2018

20. He set the cake on the floor of the passenger seat side of the car. While stopped at a stop light, Pastor Jordan looked down and saw for the first time that the cake had a terrible antigay slur written directly across the middle of it:





Whole Foods: The cake is a fake

Whole Foods, Inc. is fighting back with a planned countersuit and security video it says contradicts a local pastor's claim he received a cake from a Whole Foods store that had a gay slur on it.

Author: KVUE Staff Published: 1:46 PM CDT April 19, 2016 Updated: 10:29 PM CDT April 19, 2016

LOCAL

Whole Foods, Inc. is fighting back with legal action and security video it says contradicts an Austin pastor's

5 | Hahn Public Communications | 2018

Тта D-1-G CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-16-001648 I		
Pastor Jordan Brown Plaintiff/Counter Defendant	§ In the District Court § s	
ν.	§ Travis County, Texas	
Whole Foods Rocky Mountain/Southwest LP Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff	§ § 250th District Court	
<u>Counter-Claim</u> Defamation		
4. WFM hereby asserts the following counter-claim. The Counter-		
Defendant, Jordan Brown, intentionally, knowingly, and falsely accused Whole Foods		
and its employees of writing the homosexual slur "FAG" on a custom made cake that he		
ordered from WFM's Lamar Store, in Austin, TX. See Plaintiff's Original Petition on		
file with the court and incorporated herein by reference. WFM and their employees did		
not put this slur on the cake. The cake was in the sole possession and control of Mr.		
Brown from the time it left WFM until he posted a video showing the slur and publishing		
his false statement to the general public. Mr. Brown acted with malice and he has		
damaged the reputation and business of WFM	1.	
	6 Hahn Public Communications 2018	

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the <u>UT Law CLE eLibrary (utcle.org/elibrary)</u>

Title search: Reputational Risk: Managing Perceptions with Image Repair

Also available as part of the eCourse <u>Answer Bar: Handling Employee Investigations in Today's Workplace</u>

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 25th Annual Labor and Employment Law Conference session "Reputational Risk: Managing Perceptions with Image Repair"