

What *Landry's* Means for Press Statements

Ethical Considerations and a Defamation Primer

May 2022 Headlines

The screenshot shows the CNN Entertainment website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CNN logo and the word "entertainment" in red, followed by links for "Stars", "Screen", "Binge", "Culture", and "More". Below the navigation bar is a large video player area. On the left side of the player is a video thumbnail featuring Johnny Depp. On the right side is a video thumbnail featuring Amber Heard. A large white play button is centered over the video player. Below the main video player is a horizontal row of five smaller video thumbnails, each with a play button and a duration. From left to right, the thumbnails are: 1. A video about Johnny Depp and Amber Heard (03:00). 2. A video about the Jan. 6 committee (02:08). 3. A video about Toobin and SCOTUS (02:56). 4. A video about Trump White House attorney John Eastman (01:38). 5. A video about inflation (01:59). Navigation arrows are visible on the left and right sides of the thumbnail row.

(CNN) — A jury has found both [Amber Heard](#) and [Johnny Depp](#) liable for defamation in their lawsuits against each other. The jury awarded significantly more damages to Depp, a legal win for the actor.

Depp sued Heard, his ex-wife, for defamation over a 2018 op-ed she wrote for The Washington Post in which she described herself as a "public figure representing domestic abuse." Though Depp was not named in the article, he claims it cost him lucrative acting roles. Heard countersued her ex-husband for defamation over statements Depp's attorney made about her abuse claims.

May 2022 Headlines

FREE SPEECH

Casino Mogul Steve Wynn and Lawyer Lisa Bloom Settle #TheyLied Libel Claim, Bloom Will Reportedly Retract

EUGENE VOLOKH | 5.23.2022 4:58 PM

From [Bloomberg Law](#) (see also [Casino.org](#) (Devin O'Connor)):

Former Wynn Resorts Ltd. CEO Steve Wynn agreed to dismiss his lawsuit accusing attorney Lisa Bloom and her law firm of defaming him in a press release that said Wynn ordered female show performers to present themselves in a more sexually appealing way

"Per the terms of the settlement, Ms. Bloom will be issuing a public statement within 5 days of the dismissal of the action, which will acknowledge a retraction of the defamatory statement," Todd L. Bice of Pisanelli Bice PLLC, who represents Wynn, told Bloomberg Law on Friday. "The financial terms of the payment to Mr. Wynn are confidential."

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Ethical Rules and Opinions

Texas Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct 3.07(a)

In the course of representing a client, a lawyer shall not make an extrajudicial statement that a reasonable person would expect to be disseminated by means of public communication if the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that it will have a substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing an adjudicatory proceeding. A lawyer shall not counsel or assist another person to make such a statement.

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Ethical Rules and Opinions

Ethics Opinion # 683:

Does a lawyer violate the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct by making statements to the news media about a case pending on appeal when the lawyer criticizes the opponent's litigation tactics and reiterates the misconduct alleged in the underlying complaint?

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Ethical Rules and Opinions

ABA Model Rule of Professional Conduct 1.6(a)

Formal Opinion # 480

Lawyers who blog or engage in other public commentary may not reveal information relating to a representation, including information contained in a public record, unless authorized by a provision of the Model Rules.

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32nd Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals session
"What *Landry's* Means for Press Statements "