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Re: Vandalism of Law Office 2905 NE Broadway St., Portland Oregon

To Whom It May Concern:

I am aware that I have accepted unpopular clients and accepted advocacy of unpopular ideas. I have also accepted advocacy of positions that I did not personally hold as true. I did so, like most lawyers, because that is what our profession asks of us and I believe that it is through the crucible of civil debate and the forge of litigation that truth and fairness prevails. I believe in our judicial system.

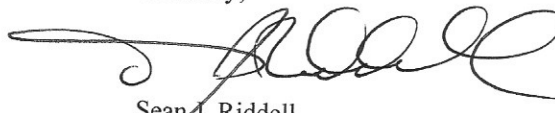
This past week nameless and faceless individuals chose to not engage in the crucible of debate and to not challenge my client in a court of law. They, instead, chose to hide their faces, hide their names, circumvent my security cameras and damage my business property and the property of the attorneys who share space with me. They claimed, albeit anonymously, responsibility for their actions in an encrypted email to a local periodical. They called me out by name and referenced a specific client. Their actions were both cowardly and personal.

I, like most, sole lawyers answer my own phone. No receptionist to shield me from the public. I learned this habit from senior members of the bar when I started my own practice. Over coffee or an adult beverage, they would tell me to answer ever call, return every voice mail, and always be polite. Everyone is a referral. Everyone who calls you believes they have been wronged and are in pain. You never know how viable the matter is when the phone rings, so you answer. When answering my phone I have been met with insults, vulgarity and threats. Sometimes I am met with a civil, educated and adult voice wishing only to engage in a debate of my position or the position of my client. To them, I extend the courtesy of my time and engage in the debate. Each time those conversations have sharpened my argument, improved my skills as a litigator and assisted in my representation of my client. To those of you who made those calls, I thank you for engaging in the debate and civil discourse.

To the nameless and faceless persons and their cowardly actions who attempted to harm me and my property, I say this: If your intent was to scare me, then you failed. If you knew anything about me, then you would know why. If your intent was to harm me financially, then you failed. If you knew anything about property ownership, then you would know why. If your intent was to strengthen my belief in our system and the honor of my profession, then you succeeded. In the past couple of days my email, voice mail and doorbell have been quite busy. Lawyers and advocates from across the country have communicated to express their support, sympathy and offer financial assistance. They have offered to clean my office, donate conference room space, office supplies and money. Attorneys I have had the most heated exchanges with have reached out to offer any and all assistance. I now, more than ever, believe in our system of dispute resolution and the professionalism of my peers.

To all who offered assistance, please accept my undying gratitude. I am forever in your debt.

Sincerely,



Sean J. Riddell

