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We are here today to announce our response to a lawsuit filed by Matthew Couloute, Jr. on August 25, 2011 in New York City against Stacey Blitsch and Amanda Ryncarz.

In his lawsuit, Mr. Couloute, who is an attorney, alleged that Stacey and Amanda are his ex-lovers. He accuses them of posting comments about him on a website called liarscheatersrus.com.

He alleges that they falsely accused him of being a liar and a cheater and he is therefore suing them for “tortious interference with prospective business relations” because he alleges that the posting has resulted in his losing prospective clients who read or became aware of these allegations.

Stacey lived with Mr. Couloute for three years and they had a son together. She denies posting anything at all about Mr. Couloute on liarscheatersrus.com and she has proof that she told Mr. Couloute that she did not post on that website prior to his filing the lawsuit against her.

Amanda was in an intimate relationship with Mr. Couloute. She admits to posting certain comments about Mr. Couloute on liarscheatersrus.com.

Amanda's relationship with Mr. Couloute began in approximately April, 2008 and lasted more than two years. During this period of time, they often lived together and she helped raise Mr. Couloute and Stacey's son. Amanda was under the impression that she and Mr. Couloute would be getting married. However, the relationship with Mr. Couloute ended on October 3, 2010 when Mr. Couloute called Amanda and told her on the telephone that their relationship was not working. Twelve days later, he married another woman.

Both Stacey and Amanda contacted me after Mr. Couloute sued them. They were and are very upset that Mr. Couloute has chosen this course of action.

We are not going to address the specific allegations in Mr. Couloute's complaint at this time.

However, today we have filed a motion asking that this lawsuit be dismissed.¹

We believe that lawsuits of this kind should not be allowed. The public policy of this nation should be that women have the right to exercise their free speech, and should not be silenced and afraid to speak out if they have experiences with men who have lied to them or cheated on them.

¹ Attorney Mariann Wang is New York counsel for Stacey and Amanda. Ms. Allred is seeking permission of the court to be permitted Pro Hac Vice as co-counsel in this case.

Unfortunately, the courts in this country do not protect women against liars and cheaters. In fact, the laws protect men who lie and cheat on their girlfriends.

Every state in this country has enacted laws, typically called Anti-Heart Balm Statutes, which protect men when they tell lies to their lovers even when these lies are fraudulent and even when they cause not only a broken heart but financial ruin to women who believe these lies. They also allow men to cheat on their girlfriends and break promises to them.

Indeed, in New York the Legislature has abolished the right to sue for alienation of affection or breaching a promise to marry.²

² Specific law is as follows: McKinney's Civil Rights Law § 80-a The rights of action to recover sums of money as damages for alienation of affections, criminal conversation, seduction, or breach of contract to marry are abolished. No act done within this state shall operate to give rise, either within or without this state, to any such right of action. No contract to marry made or entered into in this state shall operate to give rise, either within or without this state, to any cause or right of action for its breach.

Women have to protect themselves because the Legislatures and the courts certainly won't and don't.

For example, in California the law states "A fraudulent promise to marry or to cohabit after marriage does not give rise to a cause of action for damages." False representations, even fraudulent representations, is not enough to escape California's anti-heart-balm statutes.³

It is bad enough that male Legislators throughout the country have given blanket protection to men who lie and cheat but lawsuits similar to this one seem to be designed to ensure that women are afraid to even warn each other.

Enough is enough! Women must have a voice and be able to at least speak to each other on matters of common interest without fear of

³ California's anti-heart-balm statute reads : "No cause of action arises for: [¶] (a) Alienation of affection. [¶] (b) Criminal Conversation. [¶] © Seduction of a person over the age of legal consent. [¶] (d) Breach of promise of marriage." (Civ.Code, § 43.5.) In 1959 The Legislature added a new section 43.4 to the Civil Code: "A fraudulent promise to marry or to cohabit after marriage does not give rise to a cause of action for damages."

being dragged into court. It is ironic that men can look to the courts to shield and protect them when they lie or cheat on their girlfriends and then can resort to the courts once again if a woman tells anyone about those lies.

We think that the law is very unfair to women. We do not think that men should be legally permitted to lie and cheat with impunity and that their victims, who are their girlfriends or wives, should be left with no legal recourse against those who betray their trust. Women should have the legal right to tell the truth about their ex-boyfriends or spouses and should have the free speech right to warn others about men who have cheated on them.

While the laws are gender neutral, heart-balm laws in reality, protect men more than women because we believe that men are more likely to lie and cheat in their relationships with women, than vice versa.

We are looking forward to representing Stacey and Amanda, who in our opinion have been unfairly targeted in his lawsuit against them.

These two women are very brave to stand up and speak out and we are honored to represent them.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
representing Stacey Blitsch and Amanda Ryncarz
September 14, 2011