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August 4, 2010

Michael O'Brien
mobrien@suntimes.com

Dear Mr. Brien:

Please be advised that I represent the University of Kentucky with regard to an article you have published today on suntimes.com with the headline "Source: [REDACTED] will choose Kentucky." Please be advised that the article is false and defamatory and could lead to legal action against you and any entity publishing or republishing the article.

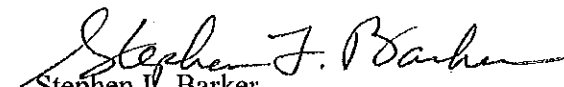
Printing unnamed "rumors/sources" alleging that "the [REDACTED] commitment cost \$200,000" goes far beyond responsible journalism, particularly when you have been advised by Mr. [REDACTED] that the "rumors" are untrue. As Mr. [REDACTED] has indicated, neither the University of Kentucky nor any member of its Athletic Department has offered or paid any money or other illegal benefits to the [REDACTED] family.

Publishing false and unsubstantiated "rumors" as contained in your story constitutes defamation *per se*, and will entitle the University and/or its coaching staff to seek both compensatory and special damages against you and any publisher, together with punitive damages for your malicious and willful actions.

Please consider this a formal demand that you withdraw the publication from any source from which it has been published, and issue an immediate statement that you know of no credible evidence indicating that there is any truth to the "rumors" referred to in your article.

Very truly yours,

STURGILL, TURNER, BARKER & MOLONEY, PLLC


Stephen L. Barker

SLB:kj

cc: Barbara W. Jones, Esq.
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