



# EISNER JAFFE

A Professional Corporation

May 4, 2015

Via Electronic Mail & U.S. Mail  
wgawest@email.wgaw.org

Writers Guild of America, West  
7000 W Third Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

To whom it may concern:

**Re: May 4, 2015, WGAW Unfair Business Practices Advisory**

We represent Nicolas Chartier. Your May 4, 2014, "Unfair Business Practices Advisory" warns WGA members and the public to use caution in doing business with Mr. Chartier or any of his companies. Your Advisory states that Mr. Chartier and his companies are "companies or individuals who have engaged in employment practices detrimental to writers." This is false and you have no basis to make such a claim.

Starting with the Oscar winning screenplay of "The Hurt Locker," Voltage Pictures has fully financed and/or produced numerous films written by amazing WGA members, including the multiple Academy Award Winners "The Hurt Locker" and "Dallas Buyers Club." Voltage Pictures has worked with some of the most respected and talented members of the WGA such as Stuart Beattie, William Wisher, Mark Boal, Andrew Niccol, Craig Borten, Thomas McCarthy and countless others and looks forward to continuing to do so in the future.

There is little doubt that the WGA knows full well the effect that this kind of advisory would have on writers and others in the entertainment business. Indeed, detrimental impact to Mr. Chartier's reputation is precisely the intent of such an Advisory. Moreover, Cathy Chrispovich, a lawyer with the WGA, stated on a telephone call with my partner, Irene Flores, just today that the intent of the Advisory was to "put pressure" on Mr. Chartier so that he would then put pressure on the people actually responsible for the True Justice residuals. Thus, the WGA apparently knows Mr. Chartier is not culpable for the True Justice arbitration award and yet the WGA is still willing to implicate an innocent man and defame him for its own misguided ends.

The Advisory selectively points to Mr. Chartier, without any actual evidence or finding of wrongdoing, and it does so with clever wording and various omissions. For example, the Advisory states that Mr. Chartier "executive produced the series." By singling out Mr. Chartier as a producer and not mentioning that he was one of 22 other producers on the series (including two WGA members who Ms. Chrispovich said to Ms. Flores were not named because they were WGA members), the WGA's intent is to imply that he was responsible for residuals. That is false. Moreover, the Advisory states that Voltage Pictures distributed the series. That too is false. Voltage Pictures was merely a foreign sales agent.



The Advisory also implies, by clever editing, that Mr. Chartier and/or Voltage is somehow a party to the WGA arbitration award of \$700,000 to the writers of True Justice that remains unpaid. Nothing could be further from the truth. Neither Mr. Chartier nor Voltage was party to the arbitration and no arbitration award has been issued against either of them. In fact, as you well know, the WGA's arbitration award never even mentioned Mr. Chartier, Voltage, nor Mr. Chartier's companies that you now name in the Advisory as having "engaged in employment practices detrimental to writers."

On behalf of Mr. Chartier, we demand that the WGA withdraw and retract its advisory as to Mr. Chartier and his companies. It is reprehensible that the Writers Guild, the traditional defenders of freedom of expression, should engage in such a reprehensible smear campaign against a respected member of the entertainment industry such as Mr. Chartier.

Unless your Advisory is retracted by close of business May 7, 2015, further action will be taken, which may include litigation or other action toward the WGAW.

Sincerely,

Harvey I. Saferstein

HIS/djj

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