

February 27, 2019



Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.



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Feedback

Defamation Today: A Tool of Vindication or Vengeance?

Time: 4:30pm

Location: Golkin 100, Michael A. Fitts Auditorium

How Defamation Claims in High-Profile Cases Involving Hulk Hogan, the #MeToo Movement, Bill Cosby, President Trump, and Katie Couric Are Impacting Free Speech, Investigative Reporting, and Political Activism

The lecturer will be Theodore J. Boutrous Jr., a partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. He is global Co-Chair of the firm's Litigation Group and previously led the firm's appellate, crisis management, transnational litigation and media groups. As both a crisis management strategist and a seasoned appellate and media lawyer, Mr. Boutrous has extensive experience handling high-profile litigation, media relations, and media legal issues. He routinely advises clients in planning how to respond, and in responding, to crises and other especially significant legal problems that attract the media spotlight. Mr. Boutrous received his law degree, *summa cum laude*, from the University of San Diego School of Law, where he was Valedictorian and Editor-in-Chief of the San Diego Law Review.

This inaugural event in the Documentaries & the Law lecture series on Media and the First Amendment, sponsored by Stephanie Abrutyn L'91, will consider the impact of free speech on the expansive use of defamation as an offensive sword for litigating the truth of denials of misconduct that may not be directly challengeable and as a defensive shield for stifling lawsuits and potentially exacting revenge. Defamation claims raised in the contemporary controversies rolling Washington, DC, college campuses, the entertainment industry, and corporate executive suites are raising important legal questions, like who is a public figure, when is a denial made in the course of litigation actionable libel, and what is a fact and what is an opinion?

There will be a reception following the lecture.

This program has been approved for 1.5 ethics CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of \$60.00 (\$30.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Please RSVP via the following link:

https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_elp2UwOvNuzQW2h

Sponsored by the Penn Program on Documentaries, The Center for Media at Risk, and the Law and Penn Law Entertainment and Sports Law Society



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