

**FREEDMAN + TAITELMAN, LLP**

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BRIAN E. TURNAUER

OUR FILE NUMBER

293.1

February 3, 2018

Via Electronic Mail: [francis@bestfriends.org](mailto:francis@bestfriends.org)

Mr. Francis Battista  
Best Friends Animal Society in Los Angeles  
5001 Angel Canyon Road  
Kanab, Utah 84741-5000

Re: **Request for Information**  
*Edward Boks, v. Mary Cummins (no action pending)*

Dear Mr. Battista:

This firm has been retained as litigation counsel by Edward Boks ("Boks") to address the numerous defamatory statements made by Mary Cummins about Mr. Boks from approximately 2006 to the present. Please address all future correspondence regarding this matter to my attention.

We are informed that on or about December 3, 2017, Ms. Cummins posted the following about Mr. Boks and Best Friends that states as follows:

"UPDATE: 12/03/2017 Ed Boks was trying to take a better paying position with Best Friends. Best Friends did their research on Boks. He will most likely not be getting the position. Back in the mid '90's Boks used to talk about "no kill" at Best Friends events. There were so many complaints about him sexually harassing women that Best Friends had to get a minder to follow him around to make sure he didn't harass the women. They have not forgotten. People reminded them about Ed Boks just to make sure."

It is my understanding that the majority of the above-referenced statement is an outright lie. First, Best Friends did not do any specific research on Boks. Second, Best Friends has not made any decision whatsoever about hiring Boks. Third, there were no complaints about Boks sexually harassing women, or harassing women in general.

Ms. Francis Battista  
February 3, 2018  
Page 2

Fourth, Best Friends did not hire a minder to follow Boks. Fifth, people have not contacted Best Friends about Boks harassing women.

By this letter, Boks hereby requests that Best Friends confirm, in writing, the five points made herein and confirm the statements made by Cummins are untrue.

This letter is not intended to constitute, nor shall it be deemed to constitute, a full statement of all facts, rights or claims relating to this matter, nor is it intended, nor should it be construed, as a waiver, release, or relinquishment of any rights or remedies available to my client.

Very truly yours,

FREEDMAN & TAITELMAN, LLP

Brian E. Turnauer, Esq.

This firm has been retained as litigation counsel by Edward Boks ("Boks") to address the numerous defamatory statements made by Mary Cummins about Mr. Boks from approximately 2006 to the present. Please address all future correspondence regarding this matter to my attention.

We are informed that on or about December 3, 2017, Ms. Cummins posted the following about Mr. Boks and Best Friends that reads as follows:

"UPDATE: 12/03/2017 Ed Boks was trying to take a better paying position with Best Friends. Best Friends did their research on Boks. He will most likely not be getting the position. Back in the mid '90's Boks used to talk about "no kill" at Best Friends events. There were so many complaints about him sexually harassing women that Best Friends had to get a minder to follow him around to make sure he didn't harass the women. They have not forgotten. People reminded them about Ed Boks just to make sure."

It is my understanding that the majority of the above-referenced statement is an outright lie. That Best Friends did not do any specific research on Boks. Second, Best Friends has not made any decision whatsoever about hiring Boks. Third, there were no complaints about Boks sexually harassing women, or harassing women in general.

**From:** Francis Battista <[francis@bestfriends.org](mailto:francis@bestfriends.org)>  
**Date:** February 5, 2018 at 5:22:45 PM PST  
**To:** Brian Turnauer <[bturnauer@ftllp.com](mailto:bturnauer@ftllp.com)>  
**Subject: Re: In re Ed Boks**

Dear Brian,

I had not heard of any such concern regarding Ed Boks as a speaker at our conference events. I also asked the organizers of those events and they confirmed that no such minder arrangement or concern existed related to Ed Boks and no such inappropriate behavior related to Ed, (or any guest speaker) ever came to our attention, so I am confident that that statement is false.

Likewise, no such accusations of sexual harassment were ever considered related to a decision regarding Ed Boks hiring for an open position with Best Friends because we are not aware of any such behavior on his part or any such allegations.

Best-

Francis Battista  
Co-Founder  
Board of Directors

Best Friends Animal Society

*Best Friends is on the ground in Texas to rescue stranded animals, deliver supplies to hard-hit shelters, transport displaced shelter pets and support emergency sheltering efforts. Please support our efforts with a donation to Best Friends Disaster Relief at: [bestfriends.org/hurricaneharvey](http://bestfriends.org/hurricaneharvey)*

*[bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org) | [facebook.com/bestfriendsanimalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/bestfriendsanimalsociety) | [twitter.com/bestfriends](https://twitter.com/bestfriends)*



**Together, we can Save Them All®.**

On Sat, Feb 3, 2018 at 4:02 PM, Brian Turnauer <[bturnauer@ftllp.com](mailto:bturnauer@ftllp.com)> wrote:

Mr. Battista,

Please see the attached.

Sincerely,

Brian Elliot Turnauer, Esq.

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