

September 15, 2021

in reply please
refer to file no.
5962-999

VIA E-MAIL (eprobison@earthlink.net)

Elizabeth Power Robison
7039 Hillside Lane
Whittier, CA 90602

Re: **Confidential Information Regarding Whittier College – No Contact Request**

Dear Ms. Robinson:

As you may be aware, we represent Whittier College (“Whittier”) in certain legal matters, including those related to employment and civil rights issues. We are writing in response to several communications which you have directed at current President of Whittier, Dr. Linda Oubre, and at other Whittier officials, including members of Whittier’s faculty, administration officials and members of the Board of Trustees.

We respectfully demand that you cease and desist from any further communications with President Oubre directly for the reasons stated below. We also demand that you refrain from soliciting confidential information regarding Whittier College’s fundraising and administrative activities from Whittier’s faculty and/or its senior administrators and the members of the Board of Trustees.

A. Factual Basis for Demand

During the last couple of months, Whittier became aware of certain comments you made regarding Whittier College, including comments about its most senior staff, wherein you strongly implied, without a basis in fact, that certain members of Whittier’s staff are engaged in unethical conduct. You have also publicly criticized some of Whittier’s proposed fundraising strategies. These strategies were confidential, merely being preliminarily explored and vetted, and had not been finalized. Whittier is also aware that you have gathered other confidential information belonging to Whittier and the Board of Trustees and then publicly disseminated that information to the public, with the intent of presenting Whittier in a false light.

Whittier has previously responded to your stated concerns, in writing. Whittier explained that some of your assumptions were, and still are, based on factual inaccuracies. Nonetheless,

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you have continued to repeat false information to third parties, with knowledge of their falsity, and made insinuations and innuendos against individuals, including President Oubre.

B. No Contact With President Linda Oubre or her Family.

Since you have continued to make disparaging and factually inaccurate comments about President Oubre and her family, even after you were informed that your assumptions are based on inaccurate information, and after you were provided with correct factual information, it appears you bear a strong animus against President Oubre. Whittier has no choice but to demand that you cease all direct contact with President Oubre. If you have any need to communicate with President Oubre, you are directed to communicate through this office and the undersigned counsel.

We also demand that you maintain a reasonable physical distance from President Oubre and her family at all times, a distance sufficient so they do not feel followed, confronted or harassed by you. We make this demand regardless of the fact that you live in the same neighborhood as President Oubre and her family. The proximity of your respective homes makes it imperative that you comply with this demand. Even with that proximity, you are able to refrain, and we demand that you refrain, from communicating with Dr. Oubre, or her family directly.

C. Refrain from Soliciting Confidential Information from Current Employees of Whittier.

You are not entitled to confidential information about Whittier College and you must stop requesting such information. Based on your previous post as a senior officer of Whittier College, you are aware that, like most colleges, Whittier designates certain information as highly confidential. You are also no doubt aware that senior officers at Whittier and members of the Board of Trustees owe fiduciary duties to Whittier, which include, among others, a duty of loyalty and confidentiality. Nonetheless, despite that knowledge, you have frequently requested that some members of the Board of Trustees or senior officers of Whittier breach those duties by your active solicitation of these employees and officers to provide you with information to which you know you are no longer entitled.

The present circumstances make clear that your motives for seeking this information is with the obvious intent to cast Whittier and President Oubre in a negative and false light and to disparage them by disseminating false information to third parties. Moreover, it appears clear from the circumstances that you have animus toward President Oubre and certain members of the senior leadership of the College.

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D. Conclusion

To be clear, all parties with loyalties to an institution such as Whittier have the right to engage in reasonable discourse for the purposes of respectfully airing concerns regarding the institution's path and leadership. Whittier not only respects that right, but it endorses it. The exercise of this right, however, must be within the legal boundaries of the relationships of the parties and must be based upon accurate information.

Whittier does not desire an adversarial relationship with you, but understandably, Whittier must demand that you cease making disparaging statements about Whittier and President Oubre, as such statements are based upon inaccurate and/or confidential information taken out of context. You must also cease seeking confidential information from employees of the College and from members of the Board of Trustees.


Based upon all of the above, Whittier hereby demands that you refrain from contacting President Oubre or from making any attempt to communicate with President Oubre or her family, and that you honor Whittier's legitimate confidentiality concerns by refraining from discussing information which you know is confidential and should not be shared with a wider audience. We request a confirmation from you or your counsel by September 17, 2021, that you understand these demands and will take immediate steps to comply.

All rights are hereby reserved.

Sincerely,

ANDERSON, MCPHARLIN & CONNERS LLP

By:



David R. Hunt

DI/drh