

## **PRESS RELEASE**

We represent Michael Michaels, a long time client, and Lloyd Lake, a newer client. Both our clients were defrauded by Reggie Bush and his family. Our clients read and watched media reports in which Reggie Bush and the Bush parents, both personally and through their attorneys, have made various statements about their involvement in a house owned by Mr. Michaels, and distanced themselves from a professional sports and entertainment venture. We in particular highlight a statement made personally by Mr. Bush, "when all is said and done ... everyone will see we have done absolutely nothing wrong." The Bush camp has even gone so far as to accuse our clients of extortion.

We find these statements to be shameless falsehoods. In point of fact, Lamar and Denise Griffin, Reggie Bush's parents, with Reggie Bush's knowledge, defrauded our clients out of large sums of money by holding out the carrot of Bush's future football career in order to entice our clients to invest in their sports and entertainment company.

Mr. Lake, a long time friend of Reggie's, introduced Mr. Griffin to Michael C. Michaels, a Sycuan tribal member and executive officer of its economic development arm, and described a potential investment opportunity in the new company. Mr. Michaels had no predilections to become a sports agent or to enter that field. Mr. Griffin targeted Mr. Michaels, in Michaels' box suite, as a financier to invest money after a Chargers football game in October, 2004. In November 2004 in San Diego, Reggie Bush, recruited by his stepfather to validate Mr. Griffin's company, convinced our clients of its viability. Our clients in good faith devoted their energy and financial resources.

As Mr. Griffin, Mr. Lake and Mr. Michaels began working on the technicalities of the company, ongoing meetings with Mr. Griffin began to reveal that Reggie's continued participation came with conditions. Mr. Griffin suggested that in order to 'keep them happy,' Michaels and Lake would have to help them with some of their personal problems. The first order of business was that Mr. Griffin needed to "clear up some debt," a sum of \$28,000, in order to help him "focus" on the enterprise. The Griffins presented Mr. Michaels with a prepared spreadsheet of existing debt. Mr. Michaels paid \$28,000 in good faith to settle the Griffins' debts. Mr. Griffin also attempted to exploit his relationship with Mr. Michaels by approaching the Sycuan Tribe (while wearing Reggie's USC jersey) seeking investment funds. Sycuan declined.

In approximately April, 2005, the Griffins announced that they were having housing problems. In good faith, Michaels permitted them to lease a 3000 square foot Spring Valley home he owned, despite their financial situation. They did not pay on the written agreement.

The Bush family cavalierly defrauded Mr. Michaels and Mr. Lake out of approximately \$300,000 in out-of-pocket costs alone, over a span of 1-1/2 years. The latter sought legal counsel from our office. On April 3, 2006, a eviction notice was issued to the Bush family, and, within a few weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin were apparently scrambling out of the residence as reporters were arriving. The suggestion that Reggie Bush did not know how his parents were financing their new life in an upscale residential home is preposterous.

David Caravantes, who has also been the subject of accusations from the Bush camp, did not start the company and certainly did not try to extort anything from Reggie Bush or his family. He was involved only as the last agent among several who were considered for employment within the newly formed company. He was interviewed by Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, and Reggie Bush's uncle ("J.C."), but he never began formal employment with New Era.

A lawsuit for fraud and related claims is being prepared. We find Reggie Bush's statement that he did "absolutely nothing wrong" to be absolutely false. Indeed, Reggie has all but confessed his wrongdoing. For example, in response to our clients' protest of the Bush family's treatment of them, Reggie Bush sent Mr. Michaels a text message stating, "Nobody is trying to screw u. We're not [trying to screw] Lloyd."

Despite this assurance, that is exactly what the Bush family did. Messrs. Lake and Michaels continue to collect Reggie Bush's prevarications in the media as evidence for their case.

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