
RE: Interview and scheduling request for Keith Engel x Stiaan Klue x Judge Davis

1 message

Bridget von Holdt <Bridget.vonHoldt@bcw-global.com>

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 12:58 PM

To: dayne stern <daynestern@gmail.com>

Cc: "kengel@thesait.org.za" <kengel@thesait.org.za>, "ferdie.schneider@gmail.com" <ferdie.schneider@gmail.com>, Dr Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za>

Good day

SAIT will not be participating in a public debate. The cases are before the courts, and we will wait for the law to take's course.

Regards

bridget von holdt

co-market leader: south africa, managing director

o: +27.11.480.8680 | m: +27.82.610.0650

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From: dayne stern <daynestern@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 1:39 PM

To: Bridget von Holdt <Bridget.vonHoldt@bcw-global.com>

Cc: kengel@thesait.org.za; ferdie.schneider@gmail.com; Dr Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za>

Subject: Re: Interview and scheduling request for Keith Engel x Stiaan Klue x Judge Davis

External:

Dear Bridget,

I'm just following up on the email query below. It has been more than two weeks with no response and I think it's best if we conclude this matter. Please could you let me know by Monday C.O.B if your client accepts or declines participation in the aforementioned interview.

Your sincerely
Dayne Stern

On Tue, 19 Mar 2024 at 15:19, dayne stern <daynestern@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Bridget,

Thank you for your response. While I understand your client's position that these matters should be decided by the courts, I am compelled to address a few points you raised in the hope that your client will reconsider.

Firstly, it appears your client is under the mistaken impression that my client (or alumni) initiated any approach to the media. Your client ought to recall two particularly slanderous circulars he distributed to SAIT members and the media on 14 February and 28 February.

Additionally, we are in possession of records of BCW's attempts to arrange interviews with various media on 29 February on behalf of Mr. Engel, and BCW's dissemination of at least one more media release based on Mr. Engel's email circular dated 28 February.

I'm also sure you're aware that there has been at least one instance where a BCW staff member misrepresented themselves to the media as a PR representative of Dr. Klue, endeavouring to arrange an interview under false pretences. Perhaps this was a once-off case of profound negligence, but I can only imagine how horrified you are at how this perceived deception erodes your company's professional credibility within the media.

The proposal to ask an independent jurist to conduct an impartial, closed stakeholder interview with Dr. Klue and Mr. Engel is a direct result of your client's proactive media campaign, which your firm facilitated. I must emphasise that, to date, all engagements between the media and my client (and alumni) have been entirely reactive in nature, initiated by journalists in response to emails and media statements issued by your client.

The intention behind inviting your client to participate in an interview with a retired judge was not to initiate a social media debate. The intention is to engage in an unscripted interview format to ensure a transparent and unbiased dialogue. It is an opportunity for both parties to present their perspectives in response to the specific allegations circulated by Mr. Engel.

Dr. Klue's initiative to invite Judge Davis, who is a retired judge and the host presenter of the SABC program *Judge for Yourself*, to conduct the interview is an attempt to ensure a fair and balanced discussion for the benefit of internal stakeholders. Judge Davis's proven track record of handling controversial topics with balance and integrity in his SABC program makes him an ideal choice for ensuring a fair and transparent discussion.

By dismissing this opportunity, Mr. Engel fails to demonstrate a commitment to openly addressing the concerns of stakeholders who received his emails and media statements. Your client's eagerness to initiate engagement with the media on his own terms, using carefully crafted statements, while simultaneously rejecting Dr. Klue's sincere proposal for an impartial unscripted interview, moderated by an experienced and objective third party, raises serious concerns about Mr. Engel's ability to discern appropriate behaviour and actions.

Dr. Klue believes it is entirely appropriate to subject himself to an open discussion with a closed stakeholder audience comprising members of both institutions, particularly considering the potential impact on their emotional and professional well-being.

My client's invitation to Mr Engel remains open as this interview presents a valuable opportunity for both Dr. Klue and Mr. Engel to directly address the pressing questions and concerns of internal stakeholders and members elicited by Mr. Engel's public statements. It is important to note that participating in this interview would not jeopardise the ongoing court proceedings; on the contrary, it would demonstrate a commitment to transparency and accountability on the part of both Dr. Klue and Mr. Engel.

Sincerely,
Dayne Stern

On Thu, 14 Mar 2024 at 16:22, Bridget von Holdt <Bridget.vonHoldt@bcw-global.com> wrote:

Dear Dayne

My client believes that your client's attempts to draw Judge Dennis Davis into a social media debate on these matters are wholly inappropriate regardless of the format, especially given SARS's express views not to be directly or indirectly involved. More importantly, these matters are playing out in the court system. As is clear from the recent negotiations and posts on social media, nothing is served by having further social discourse. These matters are best left for the courts to decide as the final and official arbiters.

We also take note that your client (through his alumni) chose to take these matters to the media first.

Regards

bridget von holdt

co-market leader: south africa, managing director

o: +27.11.480.8680 | m: +27.82.610.0650

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From: dayne stern <daynestern@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:59 AM
To: Bridget von Holdt <Bridget.vonHoldt@bcw-global.com>
Cc: kengel@thesait.org.za; ferdie.schneider@gmail.com; Dr Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za>
Subject: Re: Interview and scheduling request for Keith Engel x Stiaan Klue x Judge Davis

External:

Hi Bridget,

It has been a week since Mr Engel was invited to participate, please let me know if you've heard his response yet. I'm aware that your client has already issued statements to the media and initiated requests for interviews with various media houses - with little success so far - so I expect that he would be eager to appear in a live broadcast and grateful for the opportunity to substantiate his claims against The Tax Faculty.

The absence of a reply from Mr Engel creates the assumption that he is reluctant, and the various stakeholders who wish to hear from Dr Klue and Mr Engel may well interpret Mr Engel's non response as as a "quiet refusal" to play open cards.

Kind Regards

Dayne Stern

On Mon, 11 Mar 2024 at 16:07, dayne stern <daynestern@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Bridget,

Has Keith confirmed whether he is interested in participating in a joint interview format with Stiaan, outlined below?

Best regards

Dayne

On Thu, 7 Mar 2024 at 20:24, dayne stern <daynestern@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Bridget,

Thanks for the prompt reply.

Subsequent to scheduling the interview, SARS reported a concern that a one-sided interview might unintentionally create the perception of bias. Dr Klue accordingly advised that he is willing to participate in a joint interview format that also includes Mr Engel to avoid any perception of bias. For further clarity, there will be no public or media access to live webinar feed. Access is limited to all Tax Faculty members and other internal stakeholders. If Keith agrees to participate, SAIT can invite its stakeholders and members.

Best regards

Dayne Stern

On Thu, 7 Mar 2024 at 18:08, Bridget von Holdt <Bridget.vonHoldt@bcw-global.com> wrote:

Hi Dayne

Thanks for sending me the information.

For clarity, is Judge Davis doing this in addition to the session on Monday? Or is the Monday session not going ahead.

Has the Judge agreed to be, as you said to me, the 'moderator / arbitrator' of this open and frank conversation about this protracted dispute?

Look forward to the clarity on this.

Regards

bridget von holdt

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o: +27.11.480.8680 | m: +27.82.610.0650

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From: dayne stern <daynestern@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 5:17 PM
To: Bridget von Holdt <Bridget.vonHoldt@bcw-global.com>
Cc: kengel@thesait.org.za; ferdie.schneider@gmail.com; Dr Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za>
Subject: Interview and scheduling request for Keith Engel x Stiaan Klue x Judge Davis

External:

Dear Bridget

Thanks for taking my call - as mentioned I'm the PR consultant employed by The Tax Faculty and Dr Stiaan Klue.

My client requested that I engage with you to explore the option for Mr Engel to join Dr Klue in a live webinar interview.

Considering the position that Dr Klue fulfils in The Tax Faculty, my client considered that it is in the interest of the stakeholders of The Tax Faculty to hear from Dr Klue directly. Accordingly, Dr Klue approached Judge Davis to conduct an open and frank conversation about this protracted dispute and your client's statements in this regard.

Will you kindly engage with your client, Mr Engel, and enquire whether he would be available to schedule a suitable date and time for a online webinar interview, preferably next week?

Regards

Dayne

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