

Claim No: n/a

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

BETWEEN

AURORA PIERDANT

Complainant

-and-

GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LIMITED

Publisher

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Complainant:

1. My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Complainant, Aurora Pierdant.
2. Ms Pierdant is an experienced Mexican lawyer who has worked for over thirty years with an unblemished record.
3. The Publisher, Guardian News and Media Limited ("**the Guardian**"), publishes the website guardian.com (the "**Website**") and *The Guardian* and *The Observer* newspapers. The Website is one of the largest English-speaking quality newspaper websites in the world.
4. On 9 August 2016, the Guardian published a new story on its Website entitled "*Mexican first lady's Florida home owned by potential government contract*" (the "**Article**"). The Article stated that in 2011 Ms Pierdant had been fired by the Mexican state oil firm, Pemex, for administrative negligence and had been banned from the public sector for one year.
5. The Article omitted to state that throughout the process, Ms Pierdant had continuously (and rightly) asserted her innocence, and that both the dismissal and the ban were later overturned by an appeal court, such that her name was cleared and her unblemished record restored with no ongoing suspicion about her legal practice or expertise.
6. The Guardian acknowledged its mistake and removed the Article from the Website. It also published an apology in terms agreed with Ms Pierdant on the Website. The apology is available at the following URL <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/16/aurora-pierdant->

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apology and is the first search result for a Google search of Ms Pierdant's name.

7. The Guardian also offered to pay damages to Ms Pierdant and to pay her reasonable legal costs and a sum has now been agreed between the parties.
8. The Guardian subsequently made an unqualified offer of amends to Ms Pierdant pursuant to section 2 of the Defamation Act 1996 and this offer was accepted by Ms Pierdant.
9. In addition to the above, the Guardian has notified all of its licensed databases of the error contained in the Article and contacted a substantial number of external websites and publishers to inform them of the error in the Article and the publication of the apology.

Solicitor for the Publisher:

10. My Lord, on behalf of the Publisher, I confirm all that has been said on the Complainant's behalf. The Publisher repeats its apology to the Complainant. The Publisher has agreed not to republish any materials conveying this defamatory meaning or any similar meaning.

Solicitor for the Complainant:

11. My Lord, with that the Complainant is content to let matters rest.

Carter Ruck

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Carter Ruck
Solicitors for Ms Pierdant
Dated:

[Signature]

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Guardian News and Media
Limited

Dated: 7 April 2017

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