

Message to TownHall.com 08-25-21

Hi,

I am writing to demand a retraction in this essay:

<https://townhall.com/columnists/brianmcnicoll/2021/08/24/when-journalists-are-activists-its-hard-to-trust-their-journalism-n2594571>

In particular, I demand that you delete the following paragraph, which repeats false and defamatory statements about me:

"Going back to 2011, the Obama administration was accused of attacking for-profit colleges to benefit investors who were short sellers in them. Halperin was accused of doing their dirty work. The Daily Caller and Politico said he was running "a \$1 million campaign" on their behalf. He says the campaign consisted only of \$4,000 in TV ads – an absurdly small sum. He also said he "could not care less" if one noted short seller "makes or loses money in the market.""

In fact, I have never done any work, dirty or otherwise, on behalf of any short sellers or received any funding from short sellers.

In addition, the false claim of a million dollar campaign was made not by Politico or the Daily Caller but by Melanie Sloan and Natasha Mayer writing op-eds in those publications; just as Tom Cotton arguing for sending the military to address domestic protestors in a New York Times op-ed wasn't the New York Times making this argument.

The claim that I ran a million dollar campaign to do short-sellers' dirty work harms my reputation by implying that I am corrupt. In fact, my higher education work is funded by charitable foundations that share my interest in quality, affordable higher education.

The sentence about the \$4000 expenditure implies that I am lying about the amount we spent, and I am not.

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2011/02/melanie-sloan-is-not-making-sense.html>

Please delete this paragraph and write me back to confirm, or you will hear from me again. For more details on these matters, please see

<https://www.republicreport.org/2021/falsehood-website/>

Thanks. David Halperin