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“Justice and judgment are the foundation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face” Psalm 89:14

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. Peter Jennings  
World News Tonight  
ABC News  
7 West 66th Street  
New York, New York 10023

Re: Willie Gary, the Self-Proclaimed “The Giant Killer,” Exposed

Mr. Jennings,

As you know World News Tonight is widely viewed by innumerable millions of Americans across the nation. Its correspondents are fondly known and recognized for their edge cutting; death-defying, gut-wrenching news broadcasts which go where no men dare to adventure alone. Its stories are insightful, helpful and an extraordinary exposé of fraud and corruptive behavior exhibited by politicians, the government and everyday ordinary folk. It is for these reasons and your trustworthiness and respectability as a reporter that we write to you today.

In 2001, World News Tonight featured Willie Gary as the Person of the Week. That particular interview characterized Gary as the self-proclaimed “Giant Killer” –winning hundreds of millions of dollars for his clients in verdicts and out-of-court settlements against giant corporations such as Disney. The story impressed upon its viewers a Cinderella story as Gary rose from “rags to riches”, displaying his viciousness in the courtroom where he has been sanctioned for insulting or humiliating opponents in heated brawls.

Although we respect your portrayal of Gary, which may have been accurate based on the information available to you at the time, we however, have a different perspective of his image. The David vs. Goliath type persona with an added flare of killer instinct we had come to know Gary for was short lived. In the end we found him to be a monster of sorts—calculating, manipulative, diabolical, greedy gutless spine—seeking to fulfill the lusts of his flesh while devouring his unsuspecting prey. In fact, his solicitation for clients is a deliberate, premeditated racketeering scheme to extort money from large corporations, an m. o. of his long time friend Jessie Jackson.

This is our story.

By way of introduction, we are Marietta Goodman and Sharron Mangum, two (2) of the seventeen (17) individuals who vacated their share of Coca-Cola's \$192.5 million dollar racial discrimination settlement to pursue separate claims against the company. Willie Gary and his firm Gary, Williams, Parenti, Finney, Lewis, McManus, Watson and Sperando, "Gary Firm" signed on to be our legal representation after his attempts failed to become class plaintiffs' legal representation.

Jessie Jackson, a good friend and client of Gary's, attempted in 2000 without much success to have Gary join the legal team of Cyrus Mehri and Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore to help negotiate the class settlement. By May of 2001 this effort turned out to be a fiasco—bitterly severing the lead class representatives. Mehri forcibly removed Motisola Abdallah, Wanda Williams, Gregory Clark and Ajibola Laosebikan as lead class representatives advising them to seek new counsel.

By August 2001 Willie Gary was calling himself "the new sheriff in town." He was now representing a total of seventeen class plaintiffs in separate lawsuits, four of which were class representatives (Abdallah vs. Coca-Cola, No. 1:01-CV-1336, N.D.Ga., May 24, 2001), six laboratory employees (Orr vs. Coca-Cola No. 1:01-CV-2105, N.D.Ga., August 8, 2001) and four women (Goodman vs. Coca-Cola No. 1:00-CV-1774 (N.D.Ga., July 14, 2000) in a \$1.5 billion race discrimination suit against Coca-Cola.

As reported by the Fulton County Daily Report August 17, 2001, Shields McManus of the Gary Firm is quoted saying, "Looking back at the class action, some people had stronger claims than others...these people are very concerned...they are unhappy with the way they had been treated at Coke...they felt strongly that they should make their statements individually rather than as part of a class action...[and] we looked it over and agreed with them."<sup>1</sup> With this assurance by Willie Gary and other members of his firm to take our cases "to the courthouse door steps", we began to prepare for the road ahead.

By September 2001 unrest began to develop within the group of seventeen (17). Willie Gary and his staff were not returning telephone calls, providing fallible communication, dancing around questions or just flat out lying about the status of our claims. In an effort to calm the unrest, Gary transported us from Atlanta to Stuart, Florida by private jet to his office for a meeting, and, a lunch and tour of his home before returning us to Atlanta late that evening. During this meeting Gary reported that he was in settlement discussions with Coca-Cola and was using the video depositions given by most plaintiffs in July 2001 to rack up big bucks. He stated, "I'm Willie Gary and they know that they are going to have to pay me."

January and February 2002 our group claims had been severed individually, and Gary was singing a new tune. Separately, we were contacted by a member of the Gary Firm explaining that Coca-Cola would only settle our claims for what they were worth in the

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<sup>1</sup> [www.law.com/jsp/printerfriendly.jsp?c=LawArticle&t=PrinterFriendlyArticle&cid=1...](http://www.law.com/jsp/printerfriendly.jsp?c=LawArticle&t=PrinterFriendlyArticle&cid=1...)

class action lawsuit. All of us felt somewhat deflated, but not dismayed, as Gary had promised that he would take our cases to the courthouse steps. With that in mind, we (all seventeen) told them to continue to pursue our claims.

September 19, 2002 individually we received calls from members of the Gary Firm telling us that our claims had no merit, we would be prosecuted by Coca-Cola for various reasons which included providing them with privileged and confidential documents of Coca-Cola's, and that there would be no way that we would win our cases in trial. Gary was also willing to waive all fees, expenses, and court costs associated with litigating our claims which had amassed to over \$500,000 dollars. We had until September 30 to consider Coca-Cola's offer.

At this point, the threats from the Gary Firm became more intense and aggressive, and by December 2002, only nine of us remained. Goodman's \$1.5 billion dollar group claim, which had been severed individually, had been dismissed, while the others choose to opt-in to the class settlement. Also, while embroiled in this fight with our legal representation, early 2003 Sharron Mangum and Gregory Clark were fired from Coca-Cola. Mangum was fired for allegedly hacking into a computer and soliciting false corroboration in her complaints of harassment, threats and intimidation from Coca-Cola employees. Clark was fired for allegedly providing false information in his employment application with Coca-Cola.

By May 2003 we learned from an anonymous party that Willie Gary planned and calculated a scam to defraud his seventeen (17) clients from the very beginning. This elaborate scheme involved Coca-Cola and Willie Gary "secretly entering into an agreement in which he would receive \$40 million dollars as part of a settlement package in exchange for his [seventeen (17) clients] permanently dropping their claims against Coca-Cola and Willie Gary agreeing never to pursue litigation against Coca-Cola again in the future."<sup>2</sup>

By June 2003 four of us joined in a bar complaint against Willie Gary, Tricia P. Hoffler, F. Shields McManus, Maryann Diaz, and Jerome Stone. The case had reached the Nineteenth Circuit of the Florida Supreme Court when Gloretta Hall, a partner in the Gary Firm, joined the Florida Bar in December 2003. Shortly after, February 2004, the case was dismissed with no wrongdoing found against Gary despite having submitted documented and secretly taped recorded evidence substantiating our claims of fraud and legal malpractice.

September 2003, we received a shocking, yet informative telephone call from a plaintiff, identified as Jane Doe #2, in the multi-million collective action lawsuit against Gary as the result of fraud and racketeering charges arising out of a gender discrimination suit against Ford Motor Corporation and Visteon Corporation in 2002.

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<sup>2</sup> N.D.Ga. 1:03-CV-3387 filed November 7, 2003.

These women allege that Ford Motor Company and Visteon Corporation with Willie Gary “secretly entered into an agreement whereby [Gary] would receive \$51.5 million as part of a settlement package in exchange for plaintiffs permanently dropping their claims...and [Gary] agreeing never to pursue litigation against Ford Motor Corporation again in the future. Plaintiffs were not to, and in fact did not, receive any of these monies.”<sup>3</sup>

June 2004 Gregory Clark’s case (N.D.Ga. File No. 1:01-CV-3039) was dismissed in a sixty-two (62) page summary judgment granted for the defendant, Coca-Cola, as to all federal claims alleged by Clark. What we find so outrageous about this is that Clark, as a lead class representative, would have received \$300,000 dollars had he remained with the class in 2001. You may think that’s the risk he took; however, close inspection of Gary’s representation in this action paints a formidable picture of irreparable harm.

Of the original seventeen (17) there remains three (3), Ajibola Laosebikan, Jacqueline Emerson and Sharron Mangum. Laosebikan and Emerson are still represented by Gary, while Mangum is acting as a Pro Se Plaintiff in her case.

All the information and evidence gathered mounts to unequivocal proof of malice, corruption, fraud and greed. Gary’s solicitation was nothing more than a deliberate, premeditated farce to extort money from Coca-Cola. Willie Gary and his law firm held these his seventeen (17) clients hostage until he was able to successfully wrangle millions of dollars from Coca-Cola. Once this malicious scheme was executed, he, along with his co-conspirators drove a maniacal, methodic, reckless and vicious force to abandon and dismiss each of his clients’ cases under the guise of the law.

In an effort to report Gary’s unlawful conduct, we have shared our story with a number of major publications, filed a complaint with the Florida Bar, had our story published in the local newspaper and was featured on the local news. We have reported our allegations to both the local FBI and the local Attorney General’s office, and we currently have a \$1.5 billion class action lawsuit against Gary pending in the U.S. Court of the Northern District of Georgia.

Our sources reveal that Willie Gary is connected to and acting in cohesion with a massive, powerful network of individuals that include high ranking politicians, CEOs, judges, and so forth, which explains why we have yet to be successful in exposing this miscarriage of justice.

We would like an opportunity to tell the other side of the story. We would gladly provide any documents, audiocassettes and witness testimony to substantiate our claims.

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<sup>3</sup> E.D.Mi. 1:03-CV-73350 filed September 3, 2003.

We will be in New York within the next week and half, and have planned to visit your office on Tuesday, June 29, 2004 to provide you with this material. It would be greatly appreciated if you, your assistant or a producer will grant us the opportunity to expound on the injustices we suffered, as it is much too much to share within a letter.

In closing, we trust that since your show reaches so many viewers and has already exposed the nation to Mr. Gary's successfulness, you will feel compelled to depict this most intriguing tale of Mr. Willie Gary since his rise to fame and fortune and his ring of hooligans, as told from his client/victim perspective.

If you wish to speak to us regarding this matter before the 29<sup>th</sup>, please do not hesitate to contact either of us at the numbers provided above.

Thank you for your time, consideration and interest in our story, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

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Marietta Goodman  
Pro Se Plaintiff

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Sharron Mangum  
Pro Se Plaintiff