

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No: KB-2026-000503

KING'S BENCH DIVISION

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST

BETWEEN:

MR BEAU KEROUAC

Claimant

-and-

INDEPENDENT DIGITAL NEWS AND MEDIA LTD

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Claimant's representative: William Bennett KC, Counsel for the Claimant

1. My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Mr Beau Kerouac. Ms Lydia Robinson appears on behalf of the Defendant.
2. The Claimant is a British film-maker. He has extensive experience working as an artist, executive producer and director in the film industry in Great Britain and in the United States of America.
3. The Defendant is the publisher of *The Independent*, a British online newspaper with a monthly UK audience of 19.6 million readers.
4. On 7 February 2025, the Defendant published an article on *The Independent* website entitled “‘*Aspiring Artist*’ accused of faking Hollywood career to swindle movie investors out of \$500k” (“the Article”).
5. On 17 July 2025, The Independent added the following wording to the Article:

“Update: The case against Beau Kerouac was dismissed on 6/17/25. As the case was dismissed at an early stage, the court did not make a finding in favor (sic) of either party in terms of liability.”

6. The Article suggests that there are strong grounds to suspect that the Claimant has committed a large-scale fraud, but that the court never got an opportunity to consider them.
7. No findings of liability, fraud, or wrongdoing have ever been made against the Claimant.
8. The allegations are untrue.
9. The Defendant appears here today to express its apologies to the Claimant for the distress and embarrassment caused by the Article and to apologise publicly to the Claimant. In the circumstances, the Claimant is prepared to let the matter rest.

Defendant’s representative: Lydia Robinson, Solicitor for the Defendant

10. My Lord, through me the Defendant offers its apologies to the Claimant for any distress and embarrassment caused by the Article. The Defendant has agreed to pay the Claimant damages and his legal costs. The Defendant has also agreed to remove the Article from its website.

Edwards Duthie Shamash

Solicitors for the Claimant

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Solicitors for the Defendant