

Social media is the hottest thing since pantyhose, roller boards, laptops, and email. It's fun, fast paced and allows us to create community as never before. We can connect with family and friends, find old pals, and build a customer base at a fraction of the cost of rolling out an expensive PR campaign. But with all the cool things social media allows us to do, there are some serious legal issues to be aware of. One of the most common is defamation -- making statements of fact, to a third party, which injures another person's reputation.

Often times we hear about celebrities who get sued for what they say in social media venues, and we think it's no big thing. Sometimes perhaps we even think it's "cool" to be sued, just like Kim Kardashian. While it may not be a big thing for rich celebs who can afford to be sued--what about you? Are you in a position to defend a lawsuit? is it worth finding out? And no doubt, many of the lawsuits are dismissed, but think pf the legal fees you'd have to pony up to get a case dismissed. Learn from their mistakes.

Here are a few of the more recent and public lawsuits:

1. Amanda Bonnen http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/01/20/amanda-bonnen-twitter-sui_n_430522.html
2. Courtney Love <http://www.nationalpost.com/arts/story.html?id=1447916>
3. Kim Kardashian <http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2009/12/30/cookie-diet-kim-kardashian/>
4. Grant Raphael <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25840728/>
5. Argee Guevarra <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/technology/09/21/09/facebook-user-welcomes-belo-libel-suit>
6. Sacha Baron Cohen <http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/21/a-legal-victory-for-ali-g-and-sacha-baron-cohen/>
7. The Dixie Chicks <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/12/02/entertainment/main5866589.shtml>
8. John Grisham <http://www.csmonitor.com/Books/chapter-and-verse/2010/0203/Libel-suit-against-John-Grisham-is-dismissed>
9. Thomas Cooper, Christopher and Brendan Gebhart, Justin Layshock http://news.cnet.com/2100-1030_3-6174506.html
10. Benjamin Schreiber and Ryan Todd http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/MYSA092206_01B_MySpaceLawsuit_2f28841_html3634.html
11. Dennis Lennox, Bradley Dennis, Anthony Giammarinaro <http://michiganmessenger.com/22336/grebner-files-libel-suit-over-wikipedia-edits>
12. Nicholas Kristof <http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/15/end-of-the-libel-road/>
13. Tasha Cunningham <http://www.onpointnews.com/NEWS/defamed-by-dating-gossip-suit-resurfaces.html>
14. Daniel Bernath <http://blogs.wweek.com/news/2009/07/03/juicy-suits-lawyer-vs-lawyer-in-internet-libel-dispute/>
15. Ilena Rosenthal <http://www.out-law.com/page-7503>
16. Peter Robbins http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/09/08/libel_lawsuit_filed_against_cape_blogger/
17. Gretchen Rossi <http://www.bravofan.com/jay-photoglou-sues-gretchen-rossi-for-libel/>
18. Britney Spears <http://news.lp.findlaw.com/hdocs/docs/spears/lutfibritneyspears20309cmp.html>
19. Jerry Seinfeld <http://coldleftovers.com/seinfeld-sued-for-comments-on-letterman/>
20. Jared Diamond http://www.theinsider.com/news/2066910_Author_Jared_Diamond_sued_for_libel