



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief James W. Ransom
Chief Lorraine M. White
Chief Barbara A. Lazore
Sub-Chief Ronald LaFrance, Jr.
Sub-Chief Donald D. Thompson, Sr.
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams

PRESS RELEASE

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TRIBAL COUNCIL CHIEFS SUE NY POST FOR LIBEL

Akwesasne- St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs Lorraine White, Barbara Lazore and James Ransom are named as plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against the New York Post newspaper for libelous statements made over the course of a year.

The New York Post ran two unsigned editorials, the first of which appeared in February 2007, and another, published on January 8, 2008 concerning the Tribe's efforts to build a casino in the Catskills. The editorials contained false and defamatory statements that charge the Chiefs with serious crimes, suggest misconduct, make allegations that are injurious and open them up to public contempt, ridicule, aversion and disgrace.

The February 2007 editorial attacked the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe saying, "...doing a deal with this particular tribe—with its extended history of often violent criminality is a travesty." The Post called the Tribe "dubious partners" and in several cases called the St. Regis Mohawks a "smuggling operation." In 2008, the Post again defamed the Tribal Council using much of the very same verbiage, calling the Tribe a "criminal enterprise." Editors at the Post wrote, "And make no mistake: Much of the Mohawks' recent record lands squarely on the foul side of the law."

Last year, the Tribal Council together wrote a 300-word letter to the editors at the Post defending the Tribe. The Post would only accept a 160 word response from the Tribe, which they later published, but only after the Tribe considered taking out a full-page advertisement by which to publish their letter.

Damages in the judgment have been set at not less than \$20 million.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council said, "This is a case in which we hope to defend not only the integrity of the St. Regis Mohawks and our contemporary history, but the integrity of all tribes and Native people whose reputations are marred by reckless writers and the lack of restraint in the media."