

The Continued Erosion of Rule 10b-5

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Private Party Liability for Statements Under 10b-5 Following Janus Capital

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P.S. Truth is an absolute defense.

To: Alain M. Baudry From: Edd M. Schillay Date: June 20, 2013

If you could send us your second draft set of materials by Wednesday, July 3, we would appreciate it. Final versions would be due in early September. We are looking forward to working with you. Thank you.

PS -- I have deleted the hilarious joke about the pope. It might offend someone. Ultimately, it is not my decision, but I think it would spice things up if you added something to insult our audience.

Edd M. Schillay | Manager of Operations The Network of Trial Law Firms, Inc.

To: Alain M. Baudry From: S. Lawrence Polk Date: June 19, 2013

I'm working on the titles for the various presentations. Does this edit work for you?

PS -- Regarding your materials: It is completely unacceptable to insult every member of the audience. If I wanted to, I could insist that The Network not permit this kind of outrageous slander and have you removed from the list of speakers. Instead, I will rely on your good judgment to do the right think.

S. Lawrence Polk | Partner Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP

TO: Attendees of the Financial Services CLE Super Course:

It is a beautiful Friday afternoon in September in New York City.

The Network of Trial Law Firms believes that the fact that you are sitting inside listening to a CLE means only one thing --

YOU ARE COMPLETE LOSERS! GET A LIFE!

Who made that statement under 10b-5?

I. The Janus Decision

In Janus Capital group Inc. v. First Derivative
Traders, 131 S.Ct. 2296, 2302 (2011) the United
States Supreme Court held that the "maker" of
statement for 10b-5 liability must be someone with
"ultimate authority" over the statement, including its
content and whether and how to communicate it."

 Further, "one who prepares/publishes a statement on behalf of another is not a maker. And in the ordinary case, attribution within a statement or implicit from surrounding circumstances is strong evidence that a statement was made by - and only by - the person to whom it is attributed. Id. at 2305.

II. Key Issues After Janus

A. Effect of Signature On "Maker" Status

 In virtually all circuits, a signature on the document containing the false statement is sufficient to impose liability on the party who signed the document.

In re Am. Apparel, Inc. Shareholder Litig., 2013 U.S. Dist. Lexis 6977, at *90-91 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 16, 2013)

 An individual has sufficient ultimate authority to be liable for a statement he signed even if the individual was acting as an agent of his or her employer in supplying his signature.

In re Smith Barney Transfer Agent Litig., 884 F. Supp. 2d 152, 164 (S.D.N.Y. 2012) Liability attaches even if there is no proof that the signer otherwise assisted in preparing, reviewing, or approving the document.

N. Port Firefighters' Pension v. Temple-Inland, Inc., 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44280, at *35-40 (N.D. Tex. Mar. 28, 2013).

B. Liability for Corporate Officers Who Approve the Statements

 Corporate executives may also be held liable for "making" a false statement when the executive approves the statement, because approval is seen as adopting the statement as the executive's own.

In re Pfizer Secs. Litig., 2012 U.S. Dist. Lexis 39454, at *20-21 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 22, 2012).

C. Effect of Direct Attribution

 When a false statement is directly attributed to a corporate officer, such as through quoting the individual in a corporate document, courts have been virtually unanimous in holding the individual liable for the statement.

City of St. Clair Shores Gen. Emps. Ret. Sys. v. Lender Processing Servs., Inc., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44474, at *8-9 (M.D. Fla. Mar. 30, 2012)

Comprehensive Inv. Servs. v. Mudd, 891 F. Supp. 2d 458, 473 (S.D.N.Y. 2012)

 Courts have split over whether an individual is liable for a misstatement if there was a suggested or implicit, but not direct, attribution of the misstatement to the individual.

Compare:

SEC v. Landberg, 836 F. Supp. 2d 148, 154 (S.D.N.Y. 2011)

("surrounding circumstances" that imply attribution of statement to individual imposes liability on individual)

City of Roseville Emp. Ret. Sys. v. Energy Solutions, Inc., 814 F. Supp. 2d 395, 417 (S.D.N.Y. 2011)

(no implicit attribution for director-nominees of corporation whose names were listed on publication containing misstatement)

D. Liability of Senior Corporate Officers

 Courts have split on whether a corporate officer exercised sufficient "ultimate authority" to be liable for a statement when the officer did not directly make the statement in question, but when s/he maintained control over the company during the period of time when the statement was made.

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Compare
IBEW Local 90 Pension Fund v. Deutsche Bank AG,
2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 43774, at *30 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 27, 2013)
(insufficient authority)
~with~
In re Pfizer Inc. Sec. Litig.,
2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 49333, at *37-39 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 28, 2013)
(sufficient authority).
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 The Southern District of New York has drawn fine distinctions based on control over the specific portion of the company in which the false statement was made.

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IBEW Local 90 Pension Fund v. Deutsche Bank AG,
2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 43774, at *30 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 27, 2013)
(Chairman of the Supervisory Board of a company not liable for statements
made by other corporate officers during his tenure as Chairman when there
was no allegation that he supervised them or participated in making any
of the statements.)
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City of Pontiac Gen. Emp. Ret. Sys. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.,
875 F.Supp.2d 359, 374 (S.D.N.Y. 2012)
(corporate officer was found liable because he was identified publicly as part
of the corporation's leadership and was in charge of the division of the company
whose false statements led to the 10b-5 claim.)
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E. Liability of Parent Corporations

 Courts have found no liability for a parent company when there was not sufficient control over a wholly-owned subsidiary, such as when a subsidiary retained the right to amend its financial documents without consulting or gaining the approval of its shareholders or parent company.

In re Optimal U.S. Litig., No. 10 Civ. 4095, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 119141, at *16-17 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 14, 2011).

F. Affiliates

 The Southern District of New York has held that Janus does not foreclose liability for parent companies for the actions of their affiliate agents.

Elbit Sys. v. Credit Suisse Grp., 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 2201, at *20-21 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 7, 2013). Parent company liability may be possible if the parent company exercises ultimate authority over the affiliate's statement via the ability to approve a statement or the authority to prevent the affiliate from releasing the statement.

McIntire v. China Mediaexpress Holdings, Inc., 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 28592, at *79-82 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2013) (signs of control over affiliate existed, but insufficient showing of ultimate authority over whether and how affiliate would communicate statements at issue);

G. Underwriters

 Courts have been willing to impose liability on underwriters for misrepresentations in Official Statements if the document is sufficiently attributed to the underwriter to suggest the underwriter had "ultimate authority" over the document.

In re Allstate Life Ins. Co. Litig.,
No. CV-09-8174-PCT-GMS, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 7678,
at *18-19 (D. Ariz. Jan. 23, 2012)
(prima facie case of liability for underwriter whose name was placed "prominently and in bold type on the first page" to suggest sufficient attribution).

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Dated: November 18, 2005

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EDWARD JONES

Who made that statement: "YOU ARE COMPLETE LOSERS"?

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About Alain Baudry

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Alain is a partner and chair of Maslon's Litigation Group and maintains a robust practice in federal and state courts in unfair competition (including trade secret misappropriation and non-compete disputes), securities laws, franchise and distribution law and valuation disputes.

Areas of Practice

- Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Competitive Practices/Unfair Competition
- Construction Litigation
- Construction Claims
- Employment Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation

Articles and Presentations

- "The Best Seminar You Will Ever Attend: What You Need to Know About False Advertising Law,"
 Maslon Speaker Series, 2007
- "Trading Talent Without Trading Secrets. How to Manage the Risks Involved in Hiring While Protecting Intellectual Property Rights," Maslon Speaker Series, 2006
- "Business Torts," William Mitchell School of Law, 2002
- Don't Sign that Contract!, ON Litigation, Vol. 2, Fall 2009
- Thank you for not smoking or you're fired?, ON Litigation, Vol. 1, Spring 2009

Honors and Awards

- North Star Lawyer, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2012 (North Star Lawyer is a designation that recognizes members who provide 50 hours or more of pro bono legal services in a calendar year.)
- Hennepin County Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Private Sector Award, 2000
- AV Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell® (AV Preeminent and BV Distinguished are certification marks of Reed Elsevier Properties, Inc., used in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell® certification procedures, standards and policies.)

Education

- J.D. University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1987 Honors: magna cum laude; Honors: Order of the Coif; Law Review: Minnesota Law Review, Member, 1985 - 1987
- B.A. Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, 1984