

USRTK, Carey Gillam Collaborated With Monsanto Plaintiff Attorney Charged With Extortion



(/profile/alex-berezow) By Alex Berezow (/profile/alex-berezow) — December 19, 2019

The "activist-legal" complex is real. One of the lead plaintiffs' attorneys, Timothy Litzenburg, was arrested for the attempted extortion of \$200 million from a company involved in the production of Monsanto's Roundup. This same attorney collaborates with Carey Gillam and her anti-GMO organization U.S. Right to Know.



Just two days ago, Dr. Josh Bloom and I co-authored an article about how the "activist-legal complex (<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/12/17/activist-legal-complex-will-destroy-american-science-and-industry-14463>)" -- an unholy alliance of cranks and trial lawyers -- deploys pseudoscientific tricks to shake down companies for large settlements or jackpot verdicts.

As usual, we received pushback. One luminary on Twitter wrote

Credit: Public Domain/Wikipedia

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonnie_and_Clyde#/media/File:Bonnieclyde_f.jpg)

(https://twitter.com/_beccaharrison/status/1207103421964324867), "Oh shut up guys, that's not how this works."

Actually, that's exactly how this works. And the U.S. Department of Justice agrees with us. In a press release (<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/virginia-attorney-arrested-engaging-scheme-extort-public-company>), the DOJ said that one of the lead plaintiffs' attorneys, Timothy Litzenburg, who helped land a \$289-million hit job against Monsanto (<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/08/16/289m-hit-job-science-jackpot-verdict-monsantos-glyphosate-13320>) has been arrested for the attempted extortion of \$200 million from another chemical company involved in the production of Roundup.

If the company (which the *Wall Street Journal* identified (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/extortion-charges-embroil-lawyer-involved-in-roundup-litigation-11576759911>) as Nouryon) did not cough up the money, Litzenburg would send in a "parade of horrors" (i.e., cancer patients) like he did to Monsanto, according to an affidavit (<https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1227241/download>). He also promised (<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/virginia-attorney-arrested-engaging-scheme-extort-public-company>) a "40 percent stock loss" and a "public relations nightmare." But if Nouryon complied with his demand, then he would intentionally lose the case, just like the Black Sox in the 1919 World Series (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sox_Scandal).

From: gmolist@googlegroups.com on behalf of Ken Roseboro <ken [REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 10:27 AM
To: 'Patricia Thomas'; 'Antoniou, Michael'
Cc: pbereano [REDACTED] gmolist@googlegroups.com
Subject: RE: [gmolist] Brutal Hit by The Guardian (fwd)

I think there could be a PR initiative going on in the US by the biotech industry to counter the rising opposition.

Biotech supporters may have been successful in forcing Reuters to take Carey Gillam off covering GMOs as she has done for the past 16 years. She told me she's fighting to keep reporting on GMOs, but it sounds like she's running into opposition from her editor.

This, of course, is an outrage.

Ken Roseboro
Editorial/Publisher
The Organic & Non-GMO Report
The Non-GMO Sourcebook

industry (<https://geneticliteracyproject.org/glp-facts/u-s-right-to-know-usrtk-organic-industry-funded-anti-bio-group-attacks-researchers/>), routinely smears and spreads disinformation about biotech scientists.

The Litzenburg-Gillam-USRTK Axis

Gillam has continued her crusade against GMOs by publishing in sympathetic outlets, such as *The Guardian*, which has gotten into the lucrative business of spreading anti-science and anti-American propaganda (<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/07/01/toxic-america-guardian-spreads-chemophobia-and-anti-americanism-14128>). In a June 2019 article (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/02/monsanto-manipulates-journalists-academics>), Gillam lied about our organization, claiming that we receive "marching orders" from Monsanto.

As it turns out, Gillam was getting her marching orders from Litzenburg. She even dutifully repeated his deceptions several times in the aforementioned article. (See image.) For example:

"Lawyer Tim Litzenburg, who represents several plaintiffs suing Monsanto over claims Roundup causes cancer, told me that he has traced what he calls a 'dark money project' by Monsanto aimed at winning favorable public opinion."

And, as it just so happens, Litzenburg has a buddy in Carey Gillam, a former journalist who left Reuters under troublesome circumstances (see image) and subsequently took a job with the anti-GMO activist organization U.S. Right to Know (USRTK). USRTK, a corporate front group that is primarily funded by the organic

In other words, Litzenburg was claiming a pro-Monsanto conspiracy when, in reality, it was the exact opposite: There was an anti-Monsanto conspiracy, and Litzenburg (allegedly) was at the very center of it. This is the sort of person that Gillam believes is a trustworthy guide on biotechnology.

The best part is how Gillam ended the article: "It's time for the dishonesty to end."

Indeed. The U.S. Justice Department will see to that.

Lawyer Tim Litzenburg, who represents several plaintiffs suing Monsanto over claims Roundup causes cancer, told me that he has traced what he calls a "dark money project" by Monsanto aimed at winning favorable public opinion. The project includes planting helpful news articles in traditional news outlets; discrediting and harassing journalists who refused to parrot the company's propaganda; and secretly funding front groups to amplify pro-Monsanto messaging across social media platforms.

"We now know they had pet journalists who pushed Monsanto propaganda under the guise of 'objective reporting,'" Litzenburg, a partner with the firm Kincheloe, Litzenburg & Pendleton, told me. "At the same time, the chemical company sought to amass dossiers to discredit those journalists who were brave enough to speak out against them."

According to the internal Monsanto documents Litzenburg has received through discovery, pro-Monsanto narratives are disseminated by individuals and groups that promote the work of journalists who follow Monsanto's desired storylines while seeking to smear and discredit journalists whose work threatens Monsanto.