

MCLAUGHLIN & STERN, LLP

260 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
(212) 448-1100
FAX (212) 448-0066

DAVID BLASBAND
Direct Phone: (212) 448-6275
E-Mail: dblaskband@mclaughlinstern.com

MILLBROOK OFFICE
Franklin Avenue
P.O. Box 1369
Millbrook, New York 12545
(845) 677-5700
Fax (845) 677-0097

August 8, 2011

**Certified Mail
Return Receipt
& email: carolyn.reidy@simonschuster.com**

Ms. Carolyn Reidy
President and CEO
Simon & Schuster, Inc.
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Re: Dr. Diane Ravitch – “Class Warfare”
By Steven Brill

Dear Ms. Reidy:

We represent Dr. Diane Ravitch, the renowned education historian.

Dr. Ravitch has consulted us concerning a chapter entitled “Going Over To The Other Side” in “Class Warfare,” a book soon to be published by your company, authored by Steven Brill.

The clear implication from that chapter is that Dr. Ravitch has changed her position on education issues because she has accepted “...more than \$200,000 in little more than a year coming from the teachers’ unions and others opposed to reform.”

Mr. Brill’s highly defamatory accusation is not only false and irresponsible, it is founded on untrue factual premises, the most glaring being the notion that Dr. Ravitch has been paid more than \$200,000 in little more than a year by teachers’ unions and their supporters. Mr. Brill comes to that fictitious figure by citing a speakers bureau called “Leading Authorities” as listing Dr. Ravitch’s speaking fees as \$15,000 to \$20,000 per speech.

“Leading Authorities” has never been Dr. Ravitch’s agent. She has no exclusive agent and she did not charge for the great majority of her appearances in that time period before teachers’ union groups, as Dr. Ravitch had informed Mr. Brill. Her total fees to such groups was less than a quarter of Mr. Brill’s highly inflated \$200,000 plus figure. She did not charge anything for 15 out of the 23 lectures she gave to teachers’ unions and their supporters in the period cited by Mr. Brill. None of the fees approached \$20,000.

The accusations in your book are highly damaging to Dr. Ravitch, who until now, has enjoyed a well-deserved, impeccable reputation. Mr. Brill is, of course, free to disagree with my client’s position, but it is irresponsible and defamatory to charge her with immoral motives, based upon false information.

Please contact the undersigned to discuss an appropriate errata sheet to be placed in existing copies of the book and changes to be made in future printings and editions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "1st David Blasband".

David Blasband

DB:bh

cc: Dr. Diane Ravitch