



A VL real life claim example

Defamation

Newspaper Reporting

The Insured was a provincial newspaper. It was reporting on forthcoming elections to a regional development trust. The point at issue was a perceived or alleged improper influence by a trust officer to secure an appointed trusteeship for a specific person.

The trustee issued proceedings against the newspaper's publishers alleging that it had misreported the affair to his detriment and that a tape-recording of an interview which was the basis of the reportage had been tampered with to misrepresent what was said in the interview. The report also contained verbatim derogatory statements by other trustees.

Appointed lawyers defended the claim on the basis of "honest opinion" and "qualified privilege". The claim was settled. Defence costs amounted to \$41,000.

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