

June 24, 2019

Hector Villagra, Executive Director
Peter Eliasberg, Chief Counsel
ACLU of Southern California
1313 W 8th St #200
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Misallocation of ACLU Resources

Dear Mr. Villagra and Mr. Eliasberg,

My name is Gary Wilson. Since November 2010, I have operated a popular website called YourBrainOnPorn.com. I am also the author of a widely-read book titled [*Your Brain on Porn*](#). The website and book examine current scientific research on the effects of pornography on the human brain. Their perspective is that online pornography can foster sexual dysfunction and addiction. But, of course, the comprehensive body of research they feature speaks for itself.

Recently, a group of self-proclaimed “experts” who vigorously dispute that pornography has any harmful psychological, physiological, or neurological effects launched a website called RealYourBrainonPorn.com. The website was [designed and marketed](#) in a manner that aimed to confuse the public, particularly anyone seeking my website by name. It went so far as to issue a [press release](#) touting the launch with a dateline from my hometown of Ashland, Oregon, a particularly creepy touch given neither it nor its “experts” has any connection to Ashland.

I have no problem with people disputing and debating the research my website highlights, or the opinions I and others express there. I do, however, take issue with people using confusingly similar marks to misappropriate the value of intellectual property I’ve spent years developing. That is why my attorneys sent a cease and desist letter to those who appear to be behind RealYourBrainonPorn.com on May 1, 2019 (the “C&D”). A copy of the C&D is included with this letter (its attachments available on request).

Last week, to my great surprise, my attorneys received a letter from Mr. Eliasberg on ACLU stationary critiquing a demand made in the C&D that “RealYourBrainOnPorn” and the “experts” associated with it refrain from defaming and disparaging me and my website. Shortly thereafter, one of the most prominent persons associated with “RealBrainOnPorn” took to social media ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) and [SCRIBD](#) touting the “involvement” of the ACLU in her “case.”

I am not a lawyer. I won’t try to respond to Mr. Eliasberg’s seemingly thorough, albeit narrowly-focused, response to the C&D. (Please be aware, though, that the same person who celebrated the ACLU’s “involvement” has [made numerous defamatory statements about me personally](#) – including that I have made “death threats” against her and have “stalked” her – none of them remotely true. That same person is also the defendant in a defamation lawsuit currently [pending in Texas](#) alleging similarly outrageous conduct.)

But, I do want to express my profound disappointment that your organization has chosen to wade into this straightforward intellectual property matter. How is my defending my trademark an affront to free speech? Would your organization throw its weight and reputation behind someone who, out of disagreement over the content of stories in The Los Angeles Times, published a (non-parody) newspaper called “The Real Los Angeles Times” which featured a confusingly similar logo and web address, issued press releases from El Segundo, and made bizarre, false allegations about Norman Pearstine?

I am a strong supporter of your public mission. Freedom of speech and expression are important to me. I operate my website largely by myself out of my own pocket. My views are not always popular. I come under intense, false, and often outrageous, personal attacks from organized interest groups (and at least several of the people publicly associated with “RealBrainOnPorn”) on a near-daily basis for what I say, advocate for, and believe.

If anything, I would have imagined the ACLU of Southern California would be an ally in protecting my right to speak out on a topic I believe to be of enormous public significance. I would never expect your organization to line up on the side of a group whose mission is to silence my voice by, among other things, attempting to confuse the public about who is speaking.

In closing, I ask that you please clarify: is the ACLU of Southern California providing legal representation to or otherwise associating itself with the so-called “RealBrainOnPorn” website and/or the “experts” who have lent their names to it? If so, which of them? If not, then what is the ACLU’s intention here? I sincerely hope it is not to spend its precious resources supporting an effort to misappropriate my intellectual property in order to stifle my right to speak.

I await your response.

Very truly yours,

Gary Wilson

cc: David Rogers, Executive Director
ACLU of Oregon
PO Box 40585
Portland, OR 97240

[See attached key for link URLs]

URL Key

<https://www.yourbrainonporn.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Your-Brain-Porn-Pornography-Addiction/dp/099316160X>

<https://www.yourbrainonporn.com/relevant-research-and-articles-about-the-studies/critiques-of-questionable-debunking-propaganda-pieces/porn-addiction-deniers-www-realyourbrainonporn-com-engage-in-trademark-infringement-campaign/>

<https://www.prlog.org/12765427-new-website-realyourbrainonporncom-launches-for-scientific-accurate-information-about-pornography.html>

<https://twitter.com/BrainOnPorn/status/1142116387483029504>

<https://twitter.com/BrainOnPorn/status/1142207755802963968>

<https://twitter.com/BrainOnPorn/status/1142208331148189697>

<https://twitter.com/BrainOnPorn/status/1142208744748535808>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/414090481/ACLU-Addresses-Gary-Wilson-YourBrainOnPorn-harassment>

<https://www.yourbrainonporn.com/relevant-research-and-articles-about-the-studies/critiques-of-questionable-debunking-propaganda-pieces/nicole-praises-unethical-harassment-and-defamation-of-gary-wilson-others/>

https://search.bexar.org/Case/CaseDetail?r=656a718b-c424-44fe-b157-f5d53059562a&st=1&l=Prause&fn=Nicole&m=&cs=&ct=408&&p=2_2019CI09367++++DC000200000