

DIRECT CONTACT

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VIA E-MAIL: ebonine@lhsaa.org / beyondthegame@lhsaa.org
Edward Bonine
Executive Director
Louisiana High School Athletic Association
12720 Old Hammond Highway
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

RESTANT REVIEW

RE: Martin Muller / LHSAA State Wrestling Championships Access for Louisiana Wrestling News www.lawrestlingnews.com

Mr. Bonine:

The undersigned and this law firm represent Mr. Martin Muller, in addition to his online news website *Louisiana Wrestling News (LWN)*, a specialty publication available for free online at www.lawrestlingnews.com.

My Client has run LWN, a news and information website about Louisiana high school wrestling, since approximately 2012. His specific knowledge about wrestling, and his photographic coverage of your events, has been essential to wrestling enthusiasts and the families of wrestlers participating in your events.

My Client and his photographers have traditionally been provided press credentials to cover the LHSAA state championships. However, in 2020 he was denied press credentials because LHSAA has engaged in a contract with "RomaPics," and was told by the LHSAA that his coverage, which includes photos, adversely affected the revenue stream of RomaPics.

The LHSAA cannot pick and choose which media outlets it provides access to based on how much money it will stand to make. I am sure that if you discuss this matter with your counsel you will agree. The LHSAA administers a public function – its meetings are open meetings, and its monopoly on high school sports in Louisiana means that it cannot discriminate based on the speaker or his or her views.

In this matter, it certainly appears that you are discriminating against my Client because his photographs would affect one of your vendors. The work that my Client performs is incredibly important for the wrestling community in Louisiana and I would request that you reconsider your decision.

In the past, other publications have had issues with how LHSAA credentials its media. These issues have always been resolved amicably. I trust that this situation can also be resolved

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amicably. My Client is an enthusiast who deserves the same access provided to the legacy media of this state (many of whom I also represent, incidentally).

On behalf of our Client, we would like assurances from you that you will provide press credentials to *Louisiana Wrestling News* regardless of your financial arrangement with RomaPics. We would like assurances within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

If you do not provide this assurance we will be forced to initiate legal action. Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience to resolve this matter.

Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC