

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Steven J. Hatfill's Defamation Lawsuit Against *Vanity Fair* and *Readers Digest* Resolved – Publishers Issue Statements Retracting Implication Of Guilt

Statement by Hassan A. Zavareei, Counsel for Steven J. Hatfill, M.D.

In 2003, Vassar College English Literature professor Donald Foster wrote an article that purported to apply the methods of “literary forensics” to the investigation into the anthrax attacks. Condé Nast published the Foster article in the October 2003 issue of *Vanity Fair* and *Readers Digest* published a condensed version of the article in its December 2003 issue. Steven J. Hatfill, M.D., sued Foster, Condé Nast and *Readers Digest*, alleging that Foster’s article was based on numerous false facts and that it was written “in such a way as to leave no doubt in the minds of reasonable readers that [Foster] was imputing guilt for the anthrax attacks (as well as some anthrax hoaxes) to Dr. Hatfill.” Because Dr. Hatfill had absolutely nothing to do with the anthrax killings—and no credible evidence has ever linked him to those killings—we were confident that he would ultimately prevail in his litigation against Condé Nast, *Readers Digest*, and Foster.

Dr. Hatfill’s lawsuit has now been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all the parties. And Condé Nast and Donald Foster have issued the following statement: “In publishing the article ‘The Message In the Anthrax’ by Donald Foster in the October 2003 issue of *Vanity Fair*, neither Condé Nast Publications nor the article’s author intended to imply that they had concluded that Steven J. Hatfill, M.D., perpetrated the anthrax attacks that occurred in the United States in the fall of 2001. To the extent any statements contained in the article might be read to convey that Condé Nast and Prof. Foster were accusing Dr. Hatfill of perpetrating these attacks, Condé Nast and Prof. Foster retract any such implication.” Similarly, *Readers Digest* issued the following statement: “In publishing the article ‘Tracking the Anthrax Killer’ by Donald Foster in the December 2003 issue of *Reader’s Digest*, neither *Reader’s Digest* nor the article’s author intended to imply that they had concluded that Steven J. Hatfill, M.D., perpetrated the anthrax attacks that occurred in the United States in the fall of 2001. To the extent any statements contained in the article might be read to convey that *Reader’s Digest* and Prof. Foster were accusing Dr. Hatfill of perpetrating these attacks, *Reader’s Digest* and Prof. Foster retract any such implication.”

Contact: Hassan A. Zavareei
Tycko & Zavareei LLP
2000 L Street, N.W.
Suite 808
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 973-0900
(202) 257-8843 (cell)
(202) 973-0950 (fax)
hzavareei@tzlegal.com
www.tzlegal.com