

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

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[REDACTED]  
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January 21, 2026

## *Via Federal Express and First Class Mail*

Vigilance Elite LLC  
c/o Shawn Ryan  
123 SE Parkway Ct., Ste. 150  
Franklin, TN 37064

Shawn Ryan  
201 N Federal Hwy Suite 108  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Vigilance Elite LLC  
c/o Tallahassee Courier Services, LLC, Reg. Agent  
94 Pine Needle Trace  
Monticello, FL 32344

Re: Demand for Retraction and Public Apology Concerning Statements Made During  
the Podcast “Who is Protecting the Jeffrey Epstein Files”

Dear Mr. Ryan:

This office represents Kanakuk Ministries (“Kanakuk”). I have reviewed your publicly aired interview with Representative Ro Khanna which first aired on January 15, 2026. I understand it continues to be available for public viewing on YouTube and other media/Internet platforms, resulting in a continuing defamation of my client. Specifically, you said during the interview:

*“...I brought Elizabeth Phillips on and she talks about how they’ve [Kanakuk] been molesting thousands of kids for years and putting them under NDA after a settlement so they can never, as a kid, so they can never come out and talk about their sexual issue at [REDACTED] Camp Kanakuk.”*

Although the subject of the interview concerned the Epstein files, you made an unsolicited false, disparaging, and defamatory statement about Kanakuk which, you claim, was a result of your communication with “Elizabeth.” I understand you are referring to Elizabeth Carlock Phillips, whose brother was sexually abused by Pete Newman in the early 2000s. Mr. Carlock was one of Pete Newman’s victims that Kanakuk learned about in 2009. When Kanakuk learned of the nature and severity of the matter, Mr. Newman was immediately fired and Kanakuk assisted in his prosecution. He currently serves two life sentences plus 30 years for his actions. After Mr. Newman’s prosecution, multiple civil actions were filed against Pete Newman and Kanakuk. The

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lawsuits, which number between 20 and 30, publicly identify the actions of Pete Newman, and are still public records today. Pete Newman's prosecution was publicly covered and the specific allegations concerning Mr. Newman were covered by local and regional media. To suggest Kanakuk molested thousands of kids is not just false; it's outrageously malicious with no regard for the truth.

As a result of the lawsuits and pre-suit demands, there were multiple confidential settlement agreements entered into with Pete Newman's victims. The victims and their families (including Mr. Carlock) were almost always represented by counsel. In contrast to your "NDA" allegation, the overwhelming majority of victims and their families insisted on keeping settlement information confidential. The confidentiality request was often initiated by the victim's parents or the victim.

Many of Mr. Newman's victims are now in their 30s and some have recently come forward to discuss the things that occurred and the consequences of Pete Newman's actions to their lives. Others, like Ms. Carlock, have accused Kanakuk of withholding information or hiding information about these victims. The truth is, Kanakuk has not withheld any information that was not done at the request or agreement of any victim that received a settlement as a result of Pete Newman's actions. There have been victims who have requested they be released from the obligation of confidentiality. Kanakuk has agreed to those requests. Recently, a victim filed suit against Kanakuk in a Southwest Missouri court and when asked whether the information could be made public, Kanakuk agreed.

Your callous and malicious disregard of the truth as it relates to Kanakuk is inexcusable. You continue to perpetuate the false narrative that has been initiated by those like Ms. Carlock and others, and it has to stop. Kanakuk will continue to endure the suffering Pete Newman has caused but they do not have to endure untruthfulness. You have ten (10) days from the date of this correspondence to take down that portion of the interview and publicly apologize for your defamatory statements. If you fail to do so, legal action will be taken.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Bryan O. Wade

BOW/dl