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DANZAN-RYU

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Prof. Tony Janovich, 10th Dan

Prof. Clive Guth, 7th Dan

Prof. George Arrington, 6th Dan

November 24, 2012

To: Kilohana Martial Arts Association
1821 S. Bascom Ave., #230
Campbell, CA 95008

Subject: Response to "Setting the Record Straight" by the Professors of Kilohana, dated October 11, 2012

To: Professors of Kilohana,

On or about October 11, 2012, a letter was mailed via the U.S. Postal Service to us and other individuals from you entitled, "Setting the Record Straight". You later publicly included this letter on your website at:

http://www.kilohanausa.org/Media/newsletters/Kilohana-Chronicles2012_Issue2.pdf

The statements in this letter are both false and misleading. They constitute libel, since the letter in question is a written attempt to defame our reputations. We have decided to reply to the statements made in your letter in order to educate the Professors of Kilohana and others of the actual facts.

We have included our separate replies, and while they may include similar language, they constitute our direct responses to your letter.

Signed:

Professor Tony Janovich

Professor George Arrington

Attached:

- (1) Janovich reply to "Setting the Record Straight"
- (2) Arrington reply to "Setting the Record Straight"

Prof. Janovich's reply:

Re: "Setting the Record Straight" By the Professors of Kilohana, dated October 11, 2012

It has come to my attention that you have made statements about me that are both false and misleading. The letter, "Setting the Record Straight", dated October 11, 2012, constitutes libel, since it is a written attempt to defame my reputation. I have decided to reply to the statements made in the letter in order to educate the Professors of Kilohana of the actual facts.

If someone were to ask me, who are the Professors of Kilohana, I would answer that I do not know, Hans and Dale maybe? I do not concern myself with who is in Kilohana, they are an organization and I'm not a member. I do not keep up with anything they are doing or for that matter any other organization unless they contact me directly for something or one of my students mention something. I have never been personally contacted, telephoned or e-mailed regarding any statement in your letter.

I am the highest ranking black belt and longest active student of Prof. Kufferath and was given the title of Professor directly from him. Your letter, which is full of half-truths and outright lies, is not only disrespectful to me but also to my teacher Prof. Sig Kufferth. I have never publicly said or written anything about Kilohana, DZR Professors or other organizations. Anything that may have been said was in private conversations in answer to questions and would be my opinion based on my personal experience.

On the other hand your letter is actually, to use your words, "Publicly Accusing" someone; or, your other words, "Badmouthing". What you have done is produce a written publication with the intent of subjecting me to ridicule and injuring my occupation. Your publication contains false statements of fact tending to harm me. Furthermore, these libelous statements are meant to cast aspersions on me and would be considered defamatory.

I am formally demanding that you immediately cease and desist making these false and libelous statements which include the following:

Claim 1: "Professor Janovich: It was Dai Shihan Kufferath's decision not to invite you to join Kilohana as a charter member."

Response 1: Prof. Kufferath and I discussed my disapproval of this organization since its primary organizer was Russ Rhodes, one of my Jujutsu Sankyu brown belts (who started with me on September 29, 1984 and stayed approximately 2½ years.) He also held a second degree black belt in Kajukenbo. With these ranks in Jujitsu and Kajukenbo, he formed his own style called "Ken Ju Ryu" and established the Pacific Coast Association of Kenpo Ju Jitsu circa 1988 and became a fifth degree black belt in that style. This association later became the Pacific Coast Academy of Kenpo Ju Jitsu circa 1995, and finally became Pacific Coast Kilohana in 1996. I felt that this was wrong. Prof. Kufferath

and I discussed this and therefore he would have never asked me to join knowing my feelings on the subject.

Claim 2: “Professor Janovich: Dai Shihan Kufferath made it perfectly clear to the charter members of Kilohana that no one person was to be named his successor. The Kufferath family has also made that very clear. Thus neither you nor anyone else can claim to be the successor to Dai Shihan Kufferath.”

Response 2: I was with Prof. Kufferath for over 30 years and received a black belt, instructor’s scroll (the only scroll given by Prof. Kufferath on the mainland) and the only Kaidensho directly from Prof. Kufferath prior the 1993 Okugi class. The Kaidensho’s issued at the 1993 Okugi class were certified by both Prof. Kufferath and me by affixing both of our seals. I was his chief instructor and also was awarded the title of Professor directly from him and the highest black belt rank given by Prof. Kufferath, eighth degree. Prof. Kufferath passed away in 1999 and I have not made a claim to be his successor.

Claim 3: “Professor Janovich: After being requested several times just prior to his passing, it was not a Kilohana Professor who refused to give a personal notebook back to Dai Shihan Kufferath. That notebook has never been returned to the Kufferath family.”

Response 3: It was not me, either. I have no personal notebook from Prof. Kufferath. In my recent conversation with Leslee Kufferath, she said that she didn’t know what Kilohana was talking about. There were no requests by my teacher, Prof. Kufferath, for a personal notebook.

Claim 4: “Professor Janovich: It was not a Kilohana Professor who went to the house of a deceased Danzan Ryu Professor in Hawaii and removed personal notes, documents, and photos from his house without permission from his family.”

Response 4: Once again, it was not me, either. In 2003, Prof. Jack Wheat and his wife took me to visit Prof. Bing Fai Lau’s widow. Prof. Wheat asked her if she had her husband’s Jujitsu notebook so we could look at it. She replied that she did not have it and that someone had borrowed it and had not yet returned it. She then showed us Prof. Lau’s office and showed us his desk which contained AJI rank certificates, high school diplomas and miscellaneous pictures. With her permission, I took digital photographs of these and did not remove any items. There were no Jujitsu notes or notebook. We then left. To date, I have never seen Prof. Lau’s notebook. Your implied accusation against me is wrong.

Claim 5: “Professors Arrington and Janovich: It has not been Kilohana, who has made claims of having numerous historical documents belonging to Dai Shihan Kufferath and then not willing to provide the original documents for examination.”

Response 5: Refer to my comments in the next section. Suffice it to say that I share the appropriate documents with the appropriate people as directed by my teacher, Prof. Sig Kufferath.

Claim 6: “Professor Janovich: Kilohana does not make claims of having "All of Sig's notes". Boxes of notebooks, papers, documents and photos belonging to Dai Shihan Kufferath are being safely stored by the Kufferath family.”

Response 7: By the early 1970's, Prof. Kufferath had personally given to me of all of his Jujitsu notes, some originals and then copies of the balance of those notes. He also gave me copies of his scroll, certificates, photographs and other material related to Jujutsu, Restoration Therapy and Kappo. Saying that I have “all of Sig's notes” is a true statement. Prof. Kufferath also told other Danzan-Ryu instructors that I had of all of his notes and Jujitsu materials.

Claim 8: “Professors Arrington and Janovich: Kilohana Professors do not go to Danzan Ryu clinics, seminars and conventions to set up a vendor table and bad mouth other Danzan Ryu Professors and organizations to anyone who will listen.”

Response 8: I do not make a habit of initiating conversations with people on DZR Professors, organizations or any subject for that matter. My teacher, Prof. Kufferath instilled in me the idea of not being boisterous, but rather remaining quiet and observing. However, when someone asks me a specific question, I give them my opinion based on fact and my personal experience. Anyone who actually knows me would find your categorization of me interesting, since I do not talk much to begin with.

Claim 9: “Professor Janovich: It has not been a Kilohana Professor who has tried to embellish his own resume by misleading and falsely representing himself as being a "police officer" when the true and accurate description is a "reserve police officer”.

Response 9: Your statement is misleading. A reserve police officer is a part-time police officer with all of the powers, duties and responsibilities of any other peace officer on duty. I work approximately 20-30 hours per week. I am a patrol officer – answering calls for service, investigating crimes, issuing citations, making arrests and completing the required detailed reports at the end of shift and testifying in court. In addition, I also teach arrest control and defensive tactics to all of the officers in the department. Anyone who has talked to me directly about my service would know these things. My service to the department speaks for itself and I need not embellish my resume.

Claim 10: “Professor Janovich: It has not been a Kilohana Professor who promoted himself from Hachidan to Judan through a website organization that may only have two or three schools at best.”

Response 10: Neither have I. My promotion came from the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association (KDRJA) and a group of my black belt students (Council of Black Belts). The KDRJA was formed in 1978 by Prof. Sig Kufferath, Prof. Ramon Ancho, Prof. Doug Kiehl and me. The KDRJA was administrated by a board of elders which was comprised of Profs. Kufferath, Ancho and myself. The KDRJA has held numerous conventions, seminars and gatherings over the years across the country. These were typically run and taught by Profs. Kufferath, Ancho, Kiehl, myself and others. Your assertion that this is

only a website organization is false and is disrespectful to one of its founders, Prof. Kufferath. In regards to the Council of Black Belts I have included a response by Prof. Arrington.

Arrington: The decision to elevate Prof. Janovich to Judan in 2007 was made by a "council" of black belt instructors and the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association (KDRJA). As I was part of that group, I feel it appropriate to comment here. This decision was made by us after a careful examination of Prof. Janovich's knowledge, ability and standing. It was our decision that Prof. Janovich, as the late Senior Professor of the AJJF Lamar Fisher declared in 1998, "had more knowledge about the Danzan-Ryu system than anyone else." We further realized that since his teacher, Prof. Kufferath had passed away eight years earlier that this corporate decision was wholly appropriate. In addition, prior to issuing the certificate, I personally obtained the signatures and agreement of this promotion by many prominent Danzan-Ryu instructors. These includes: Prof. William Randle, Prof. John Congistre, Prof. Sam Luke, Prof. Daniel Saragosa, Prof. Charlie Lee, Prof. Gary Jones, Prof. Lee Eichelberger, Prof. Michael Belzer, Prof. Len Riley, Elizabeth Takamoto, Aneth Takamoto, Prof. Janice Okamoto, etc. The statement above by Kilohana is blatantly incorrect.

Claim 11: "Professors Arrington and Janovich: The Kilohana Workbook was the last written Danzan Ryu kata manual authorized by Dai Shihan Kufferath. He personally approved each art and placed his signature and stamp on each section of the notebook. We do not claim that these are Dai Shihan's "true" teachings, but it does reflect the knowledge that he passes down to us."

Response 11: I have never read the Kilohana Workbook and thus have never commented on it.

Now be advised that unless you immediately cease and desist making these libelous statements, I will take the appropriate legal steps to vigorously protect my reputation, including but not limited to, bringing a claim for damages.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Signed:

Prof. Tony Janovich

Prof. Arrington's reply

Re: "Setting the Record Straight" By the Professors of Kilohana, dated October 11, 2012

It has come to my attention that you have made statements about me that are both false and misleading. The letter, "Setting the Record Straight", dated October 11, 2012, constitute libel since it is a written attempt to defame my reputation. I have decided to reply to statements made in the letter in order to educate the Professors of Kilohana of the actual facts.

I am formally demanding that you immediately cease and desist making these false and libelous statements which include the following:

Claim 1: Professor Arrington: You had asked to join Kilohana. Dai Shihan Kufferath was willing to accept you as a member at the rank of Nidan. It was your decision to not accept his offer.

Response 1: In 1998, I inquired about membership with Kilohana. During the 1998 Ohana at the San Ramon Marriott, Dale Kahoun presented me with an application for membership. After researching the organization, I did not feel that it best represented my understanding of Danzan-Ryu. Although I spoke with him frequently about a number of topics, I only spoke to Prof. Kufferath once about Kilohana membership. In that conversation he felt that I would be better served by associating with him and Prof. Tony Janovich at the Kodenkan Jujitsu School and through the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association (KDRJA). I had already been participating in KDRJA events since 1991.

Claim 2: Professor Janovich: Dai Shihan Kufferath made it perfectly clear to the charter members of Kilohana that no one person was to be named his successor. The Kufferath family has also made that very clear. Thus neither you nor anyone else can claim to be the successor to Dai Shihan Kufferath.

Response 2: The Kilohana statement above contradicts what Prof. Kufferath directly expressed to me and other Danzan-Ryu instructors.

Claim 3: Professors Arrington and Janovich: It has not been Kilohana, who has made claims of having numerous historical documents belonging to Dai Shihan Kufferath and then not willing to provide the original documents for examination.

Response 3: If you are implying that I have any of these documents, your are incorrect. I do not have any original historical documents belonging to Prof. Kufferath. I was given a photocopy of a document by Prof. Kufferath that lists the Japanese characters for the advanced techniques in the Danzan-Ryu system. Prof. Kufferath told me that he was given this by his teacher, Prof. Okazaki. I specifically asked him if I could share a scan of this document with the Danzan-Ryu community via my website and he said, "No, this is for your use only." He did, however, allow me to publish the characters in printed form

using a Japanese language word processor. He told me that this was “good enough for everyone”.

Claim 4: Professors Arrington and Janovich: Kilohana Professors do not go to Danzan Ryu clinics, seminars and conventions to set up a vendor table and bad mouth other Danzan Ryu Professors and organizations to anyone who will listen.

Response 4: Your implied assertions about me are incorrect. This statement is really two comments. First, there is the implicit disapproval of my commercial enterprise with regard to selling Danzan-Ryu related books, videos and other merchandise. In the United States, this type of entrepreneurship is not only freely allowed, but vigorously encouraged. Second, when people ask me specific questions, I answer them honestly based upon my knowledge and experience. The term “bad mouth” used above is an emotional and inexact expression. Your implication is that I go out of my way to denigrate others. This is not the case.

Claim 5: Professor Janovich: It has not been a Kilohana Professor who promoted himself from Hachidan to Judan through a website organization that may only have two or three schools at best.

Response 5: The decision to elevate Prof. Janovich to Judan in 2007 was made by a “council” of black belt instructors and the Kodokan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association (KDRJA). As I was part of that council, I feel it appropriate to comment here. This decision was made by us after a careful examination of Prof. Janovich’s knowledge, ability and standing. It was our decision that Prof. Janovich, as the late Senior Professor of the AJJF Lamar Fisher declared in 1998, “had more knowledge about the Danzan-Ryu system than anyone else.” We further realized that since his teacher, Prof. Kufferath had passed away eight years earlier that this corporate decision was wholly appropriate. In addition, prior to issuing the certificate, I personally obtained the signatures and agreement of this promotion by many prominent Danzan-Ryu instructors. These include: Prof. William Randle, Prof. John Congistre, Prof. Sam Luke, Prof. Daniel Saragosa, Prof. Charlie Lee, Prof. Gary Jones, Prof. Lee Eichelberger, Prof. Michael Belzer, Prof. Len Riley, Elizabeth Takamoto, Aneth Takamoto, Prof. Janice Okamoto, etc. The statement above by Kilohana is blatantly incorrect.

Claim 6: Professors Arrington and Janovich: The Kilohana Workbook was the last written Danzan Ryu kata manual authorized by Dai Shihan Kufferath. He personally approved each art and placed his signature and stamp on each section of the notebook. We do not claim that these are Dai Shihan’s “true” teachings, but it does reflect the knowledge that he passes down to us.

Response 6: Two comments on this. First, for more than forty years, I have been intimately aware of the contents of the various editions of the AJJF kata manuals. I’ve used these books for many years, first as learning references and later as teaching curricula. Upon a cursory reading of the Kilohana Workbook, it was apparent that much of the descriptive text was the same as that in the AJJF manual. Second, in November,

1993, I attended a KDRJA-sponsored weekend seminar in Pennsylvania where Prof. Kufferath was teaching both Jujutsu and Seifukujutsu. On the Saturday evening after classes, another Danzan-Ryu instructor and I sat down with Prof. Kufferath to go over our Jujitsu notes. Many of these technique descriptions were from an AJJF kata manual and Prof. Kufferath said some were incorrect and some were "good enough". It is important to note that for most of the descriptions, he directed us with the following advice: "Better ask Tony."

It is my opinion that the comments by the Kilohana Professors in your letter are based on a distortion of the facts. I have never been officially contacted by the Kilohana association with concerns or comments to any of the statements addressed in your letter.

Furthermore your letter does not contain specifics, such as names and dates, often just generalizations.

Your publication contains false statements of fact with the intent to harm me and my reputation. Furthermore, these libelous statements are meant to cast aspersions on me and would be considered defamatory.

Now be advised that unless you immediately cease and desist making these libelous statements, I will take the appropriate legal steps to vigorously protect my reputation, including but not limited to, bringing a claim for damages.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Signed:

Prof. George Arrington