

Planet Waves

PLANET WAVES PUBLISHER ERIC F. COPPOLINO FILES \$2 MILLION LAWSUIT AGAINST LUMINARY PUBLISHING, OWNERS OF CHRONOGRAM

KINGSTON, June 27, 2019 — Eric F. Coppolino, publisher of **PlanetWaves.net** and host of **PlanetWaves.FM**, today filed a lawsuit in New York State Supreme Court against Luminary Publishing, its owners, and a former editor.

Mr. Coppolino served Luminary Publishing and *Chronogram* as its most visible writer, the author of its horoscope column, for 22 years, starting in March 1996. He also wrote a monthly column covering a diversity of issues, including exposing the toxic dorms at SUNY New Paltz, misconduct by local land conservancies, and keeping pulse on the national political scene through the lens of astrology.

Beginning in April 2018, a malicious Facebook rumor campaign started by the magazine's own editors and associates led to Mr. Coppolino's dismissal from three positions and a speaking engagement at a conference.

Luminary Publishing conducted an investigation into the rumors, which was led by former federal prosecutor Ryan Poscablo. After an extensive investigation, Poscablo concluded that "there is nothing," in the words of Luminary co-founder Jason Stern.

But weeks later, the magazine published an editorial by Brian Mahoney which falsely reversed the findings of its own investigation. Mahoney's editorial led the public to believe that Luminary had fired Mr. Coppolino as a result of what the investigator concluded, when in fact, Mr. Coppolino was cleared of any wrongdoing.

"*Chronogram* is on record as saying the facts don't matter," Mr. Coppolino said Thursday. "This is a convenient position for them to take. I trust the citizens of Ulster County to be the ultimate finders of fact, in the form of a judge and jury."

Mr. Coppolino is seeking a retraction of the libelous editorial, retraction of quotations given by *Chronogram* editors to three local newspapers, a permanent injunction against *Chronogram*, and \$2 million in damages.

Mr. Coppolino is the world's only professional astrologer to carry international press credentials. His investigative reporting on the topic of dioxins and PCBs has appeared internationally since the early 1990s, including in *Sierra*, *The Ecologist*, and *The New York Times*. His horoscope column has been published by the *New York Daily News*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Mirror*, *Marie Claire*, *Harper's Bazaar* and many others. His radio program, Planet Waves FM, is part of the Pacifica Radio Network.

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