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Albuquerque Journal
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Dear Editor:

10/28/08

Regarding your article, "House Opponents Drag Up Pasts," when the **JOURNAL** asked about any criminal convictions I answered accurately. I have not, nor have I ever been, charged or convicted of any criminal activity. I did not feel I could explain a very complicated and ugly divorce case in simple terms because it was a civil matter and not a criminal issue. My intuition was accurate because when I voluntarily offered the details of the divorce case it was not reported accurately or fairly and only made me look bad.

Your article failed to mention that over 20 years ago my children were taken by their mother from another state without my knowledge of their condition or location for two weeks. When I found them they were screaming and crying for their dad. The police were called but by the time they arrived I had already broken a glass pane to get inside to ensure my children's safety. The police said that it was within my rights to ensure their safety under the circumstances and that I was free to take them with me. Upon my return home I was served with a temporary restraining order because of the broken glass pane. That event and another was incorrectly classified by the Journal as domestic violence. It was a civil allegation. Eventually all allegations along with the entire case was dismissed when my ex-wife agreed she was wrong.

My interactions with the judge involved civil contempt (temporary jail time) for suing him (the judge) in my ugly 20 year old divorce case and is similar to many parents who find themselves on the wrong end of a bad custody battle. The Journal didn't bother to report I fought the judge all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court on the rights of the children to see both parents.

One of my hopes is that because of my experience I can help heal torn familial relationships by reducing the level of adversity that currently exists in New Mexico domestic relations (divorce and custody) law. I was instrumental in the passage of the Custodial Interference bill that gives parents the right to enforce visitation and I have other ideas that I would like to bring to Santa Fe if I am elected to the legislature. In the future please do everything you can to be accurate in your reporting of such issues.

Howard DeLaCruz-Bancroft,
State Representative
District 21 candidate