Editorial Standards & Legal Notice

Effective November 7, 2026

Editorial freedom and public accountability

GIB publishes independent reporting, investigations, commentary and satire on matters of public concern. GIB asserts its rights to investigate, criticize, draw conclusions from disclosed facts, and exercise editorial judgment over what it publishes. It reserves all applicable constitutional, statutory and common-law defenses, including truth and substantial truth, protected opinion, fair reporting privileges, applicable fault standards and limitations on damages. Political disagreement, offense or an adverse account of a person's public conduct does not by itself establish defamation.

Those rights are substantial, not unlimited. This notice does not exempt unlawful conduct, convert a false factual assertion into protected opinion, or establish that every item on this site qualifies for a particular legal defense.

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GIB reserves the right to oppose claims targeting protected speech or petitioning through applicable anti-SLAPP procedures, including California Code of Civil Procedure section 425.16 where available. It may seek dismissal or an order striking covered claims, recoverable attorney fees and costs, and other relief authorized by law. Eligibility, exceptions, deadlines and the court in which a case is filed govern the remedies available; sanctions require their own legal basis.

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GIB reserves truth and substantial truth as defenses to defamation claims. Its factual reporting should be supported by preserved records sufficient to establish the substance of the challenged assertion. A source's credibility, an allegation's repetition or a political conclusion does not substitute for proof of the underlying facts. Judicial Council guidance, CACI 1720

For defamation claims concerning public officials' official conduct, GIB invokes the constitutional requirement that the claimant prove actual malice by clear and convincing evidence: knowledge of falsity or reckless disregard of truth. Political hostility alone does not establish that standard. Other claimants and circumstances may be governed by different rules. New York Times v. Sullivan

Facts allegations and interpretation

Readers should distinguish documented events from allegations, disputed accounts, analysis, predictions and opinion. An accusation, investigation, lawsuit, impeachment proposal or indictment is not itself a finding of wrongdoing. The procedural status and supporting evidence identified in the relevant article matter.

Political criticism and conclusions drawn from disclosed facts express editorial judgment. A label such as “opinion,” “analysis,” “satire” or “alleged” does not settle whether a particular statement is legally actionable. Headlines, illustrations, captions and social previews must be read in context with the material they present, but context cannot cure every misleading implication.

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Corrections and editorial contact: Pkirbyr@gmail.com. Please include the article URL and identify the statement or material concerned.

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