



Los Angeles World Airports

News Release

-- MEDIA STATEMENT --

As part of ongoing litigation with the City of Ontario regarding legal ownership of LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT), some internal Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) emails have been made public.

One email, from LAWA Chief Operating Officer Steve Martin, questions the objectivity and thoroughness of an Inland Empire reporter and the media's reporting of ONT in general. It is very clear that a term Mr. Martin used referred to his belief that facts and airline industry trends impacting passenger levels at ONT, and that provide context, are being rejected and ignored by the Inland Empire media.

The commercial aviation business has changed. Airlines have reduced capacity to regain pricing power. Low-cost carriers that once dominated medium-hub airports like ONT, are now competing directly with legacy airlines and concentrating schedules in larger hub airports.

During a recent deposition, Martin explained that "The reporting that I had seen from the press in the Inland Empire was a one-sided version of whatever they were being told. So, it was -- there was no outside influence on their writing as far as I could tell."

It is wrong to imply that Martin was referring to anything other than inaccurate and unbalanced news stories.

The referenced portion of Martin's deposition transcript is provided below.

18:43 14 BY MR. CRONTHALL:

18:43 15 Q This is an e-mail dated April 16, 2013,
18:43 16 from you to Warren Adams. And the very first e-mail
18:43 17 on the document is apparently a response to an
18:43 18 e-mail from Mr. Adams to you, "I thought reporters
18:43 19 were supposed to be objective?" And then, your
18:43 20 response to Mr. Adams is, "Not in the inbred Inland
18:43 21 Empire." Is this an e-mail that you sent to Warren
18:43 22 Adams?

18:43 23 A Yes. Yes.

18:43 24 Q What did you mean by "Not in the inbred
18:43 25 Inland Empire"?

18:43 1 A The reporting that I had seen from the
18:44 2 press in the In- -- Inland Empire was a one-sided
18:44 3 version of whatever they were being told. So, it
18:44 4 was -- there was no outside influence on their
18:44 5 writings as far as I could tell.

18:44 6 Q So, okay. So, Mr. Warren Adams is saying,
18:44 7 "I thought reporters were supposed to be objective?"
18:44 8 And in response to that you say, "Not in the inbred
18:44 9 Inland Empire." What about the Inland Empire leads
18:44 10 you to believe that it's inbred?

18:44 11 A I think the reporting has not got any
18:44 12 outside source affecting it other than what comes
18:44 13 out of the Inland Empire entities. It's not the
18:44 14 Inland Empire. It's the reporting.

18:44 15 Q Yeah. But that isn't what you say in your
18:44 16 e-mail. You're -- the reference is to a reporter,
18:45 17 but --

18:45 18 A Well, that's what you asked me, what
18:45 19 the --

18:45 20 Q You're saying reporters in the inbred
18:45 21 im- -- I --

18:45 22 The implication from your e-mail --
18:45 23 correct me if I'm wrong -- is that reporters are
18:45 24 supposed to be objective, but not in the inbred
18:45 25 Inland Empire. So, inbred is referring to the

18:45 1 Inland Empire; correct?

18:45 2 A No. You asked me what I meant. I meant
18:45 3 that the reporting is inbred.

18:45 4 Q Okay. Even though you say that the Inland
18:45 5 Empire is inbred?

18:45 6 A You asked me what I meant. I told you
18:45 7 what I meant.

18:45 8 Q Okay. Is there something about the Inland
18:45 9 Empire that strikes you as somewhat inferior or the
18:45 10 people in the Inland Empire that -- anything about
18:45 11 it that's inferior?

18:45 12 A The reporting.

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