

Dear Mr. Murphy,

The following are my responses to several of the questions you ask in the email you sent me this morning:

Paragraph 3 of your email states that "we are serious, careful reporters who care about fairness and accuracy". Please forgive my scepticism as to this quote of yours. It is clear that your reporting is not looking to give a fair and balanced or accurate assessment of the friendship or travel habits of the nine Supreme Court Justices. Rather the reporting has been a clear attempt to impune the integrity of Justice Thomas. A fair and accurate reporting would require you all to investigate all nine Justices with the same depth and vigor and then assess the comparability of their friendships and travel habits and related activities. Such an analysis should also include recent previous Justices as well such that Justices with significant tenure are fairly compared.

I make the previous point because all nine Justices of the Supreme Court deserve to be treated with respect and genuine fairness irrespective of your perception of their opinions or rulings. The Supreme Court's role, and accordingly the Justices, as one of the three branches of our government is to be respected just as much as our Legislative and Administrative branches. The politics of personal destruction has no place in any of the three branches of our government.

I first met Justice Thomas in the spring of 2002 at the Horatio Alger Awards dinner in Washington D.C.. I was not a Member of the Association at the time and I was introduced to Justice Thomas and his wife by a friend of mine who had invited me to the event. It was an honor to meet Justice and Mrs Thomas. Through that introduction I learned that Mrs Thomas's family was from my home town of Omaha, Nebraska. It turned out that I had known her father who had been a CEO of a local engineering company. This fortunate introduction was the beginning of what quickly became a close family relationship. Justice Thomas and I bonded over a mutually shared interest in mentoring and supporting young men and women who came from severe adversity in their young lives. Such interest is the essence of the Horatio Alger Association.

You note that as close family friends we occasionally travelled together to our homes. That is correct, which is consistent with how we enjoy entertaining family and close friends. It is curious that you have no interest in the fact that the Thomas's have entertained us at their home. Further as to the use of private aviation I believe that given security concerns all of the Supreme Court Justices should either fly privately or on governmental aircraft consistent with the other branches of government. There are 535 House and Senate members (many of which fly privately or on government aviation), 25 Cabinet members in addition to the President and Vice President but only 9 Supreme Court Justices. Given co equal branches of government it is concerning that the Justices are allowed to travel commercially.

My last response to your questions is that I am very proud to have Justice Thomas and Ginni as family friends these past 21 years. I have never known a kinder

and more considerate person than Justice Thomas. Nor a more humble and ethical person. I have witnessed him spend dozens and dozens of hours answering young men and womens questions. He always gives them straightforward and uplifting advice and encourages them to be the best they can be and thereby break the cycle of dependency. We have never once discussed any pending court matter or his thoughts on the same. Which only makes sense given that my education is in engineering not as a lawyer. Our conversations have always revolved around helping young people, sports, and family matters.

Lastly, I think it is very unfortunate that rather than arguing the substance of issues or opinions dealt with by the Supreme Court Justices many journalists have chosen the path of disparaging the individual, their family or friends in a misguided attempt to bully them or to create a false image of impropriety.

Please only utilize my above responses or statements in their entirety if you chose to use them at all.

Sincerely,
David

David L. Sokol
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Teton Capital, LLC