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# KABA

KOREAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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January 16, 2012

**Via Facsimile to (818) 260-9915 and**  
**Electronic Mail to [programming@kfi640.com](mailto:programming@kfi640.com)**

Ms. Robin Bertoluci  
Program Director  
KFI AM 640  
3400 West Olive Avenue, Suite 550  
Burbank, CA 91505

RE: Racist remarks about "Korean Painter Scam Guys" made on KFI's  
"John & Ken Show"

Dear Ms. Bertoluci,

The Korean American Bar Association of Southern California and the undersigned organizations demand an immediate apology from KFI and the "John & Ken Show" for false, racially-charged claims made by persons in your employ against the Korean American community.

These statements were made on the January 5, 2012, airing of KFI's John & Ken Show. On that date, the show's hosts, John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou, began ranting about unethical business practices allegedly exhibited by persons belonging to minority cultures. Messrs. Kobylt and Chiampou specifically targeted Korean American painters as "scam guys" who seek to "rip people off." There is no doubt that these claims were racist in nature. For example, Kobylt and Chiampou specifically distinguished "Korean" painters from "American" – presumably Caucasian – ones, claiming that the former were unethical compared to the latter. By asserting that unethical scams are commonly practiced by Korean American businesses, Mr. Kobylt's statements were clearly racist and inflammatory. Further, Messrs. Kobylt and Chiampou seem to have forgotten that Korean Americans are, in fact, Americans. Comments like theirs only serve to foster negative stereotypes about the Korean American community, which has in fact contributed tremendously to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of Southern California and the United States.

Equally troubling is the fact that the January 5th statements are not unique to KFI. To the contrary, KFI's programming has a long history of making harmful, pejorative assertions against minority cultures. For example, the offensive statements at issue fall on the heels of similar ones made on the August 27, 2011, airing of the KFI show "Handel on the Law." On that date, the show's host claimed

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that, "Koreans hate Filipinos . . . [except] when you're spending money there and they love you when you're cooking up your dog." KFI's programming has made similarly offensive remarks against other ethnicities, such as Latino Americans.

KFI claims that its mission is to provide "more stimulating talk radio." However, there is a difference between providing provocative commentary that stimulates the mind, and racist vitriol meant simply to shock. As seen in the loss of advertising based on similar incidents involving the John & Ken show and the Latino American community, the public is capable of distinguishing the difference between the two. By providing the demanded apologies, KFI can begin living up to its mission of providing stimulating programming, and not racist hate.

Sincerely,



Jane Oak, President

Korean American Bar Association of Southern California

cc: Premiere Radio Networks Fax: (818) 377-5333

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**Joinder to the January 16, 2012 Letter of the  
Korean American Bar Association  
of Southern California**

We hereby join in the January 16, 2012 letter of the Korean American Bar Association of Southern California to KFI AM 640 regarding inflammatory and offensive remarks made by the hosts of KFI's John & Ken Show.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_