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STATEMENT FROM ROY BLACK REGARDING “STEELE DOSSIER” BUZZFEED CASE

Miami, FL—December 19, 2018 - Miami-based U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro on Wednesday dismissed a defamation lawsuit that Russian businessman Aleksey Gubarev had filed against BuzzFeed for reporting the “Steele dossier.”

Gubarev had alleged that the BuzzFeed report included false allegations.

The judge ruled that because the BuzzFeed report accurately conveyed an official government document, it was protected under the “fair report privilege” and dismissed the case.

BuzzFeed said the public deserved to be aware of reports circulating at the top levels of the U.S. government.

“The court found that BuzzFeed behaved properly in printing the Steele dossier,” BuzzFeed attorney Roy Black said Wednesday after the ruling. “The ruling is a strong affirmation of the First Amendment. It’s more important that the public know what is being discussed at the highest levels of government than anything else.”

“If BuzzFeed had not published, citizens would not understand the current conflict between the president and the other branches of government, as well as the conflict between the president and the special counsel,” Black said.

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