

February 27, 2019

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Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong  
Owner and Executive Chairman  
The Los Angeles Times

Dear Dr. Soon-Shiong:

A newspaper is meant to nurture its writers, not treat them as indentured servants. So it is with great alarm that the Authors Guild received word, via the February 13 statement released by the Los Angeles Times Guild, of your paper's unprecedented and shameful attempt to control any books or other creative works made outside of your employees' daily journalistic duties.

We understand the pressures newspapers are under to meet the bottom line in today's highly competitive media environment, but seeking to profit at the expense of employees' independent creations is simply disgraceful. The law is well established that works created outside of the scope of employment are not "works made for hire," and the rights to those works belong to their authors. Particularly alarming is the desire to control what is written by your employees as it violates the free speech rights of journalists.

As the nation's largest and oldest society of professional authors, on behalf of our 10,000 members—and on behalf of all authors and journalists, who depend on their copyrights to be able to continue their vital and necessary work—we stand with the Los Angeles Times Guild and urge you to drop this egregious demand.

Sincerely,



Mary Rasenberger  
Executive Director, The Authors Guild