**The Legal Exposure of Mormonism**

**by**

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The Mormon church (a.k.a. the Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints or LDS Church), for all its accomplishments in championing education, philanthropy, family values and emergency preparedness, has been exposed lately to class action suits for misrepresenting material historical facts, facts that are seminal and germane to its entire proposition of it being the only true church upon the face of the earth as well as the continuation and extension of the original, primitive church of Jesus Christ.

As things stand, the church is a predatory corporation, whose existence depends on defrauding the unwary, gullible, unsuspecting, and simple-minded that value blind faith over rational analysis.

My involvement with the church sbegan in 1971. After a brief period of listening to the missionary discussions, I converted from Catholicism to Mormonism at the age of seventeen. In 1972, I volunteered for a two-year mission in France and Switzerland. In brief, I am acquainted with the doctrine of the church intimately, have read the Book of Mormon fifty-three times, have officiated in its Temples, have served in numerous capacities, and, in short, have donated money, time and energy. And I was under the impression that I understood its history. On April 13, 2018, after meticulously examining its true history - not what the church projects on its store front - I tendered by resignation letter.

It's important to understand that the church always held this policy for its members inviolate: do not ask questions that may jeopardize your membership – a paradoxical axiom, given its founder (Joseph Smith), purportedly started with the question 'Which church is true?' Countless members have been excommunicated, not for teaching heresy contrary to church dogma, but for simply asking for clarification of their church leaders. My exit was the product of intensive research on the internet starting with a video about the 'CES Letter' (Church Education System), authored by Jeremy Runnells.

I realized that had material, salient, salacious facts about the church's history been made known to me at the outset, when I was first investigating the church at age seventeen, I would never have joined. The facts are incontrovertible and dastardly.

And we must underline here, that if fraud can be established in the first instance – let alone in four instances – it's game over. In order to prove fraud, one must file a lawsuit within the prescribed Statute of Limitations period – each state and country has its own time frames; in Canada, for example, there are no time constraints for serious crimes such as fraud.

Generally fraud consists of the following elements, and every one must be proven by the plaintiff to the satisfaction of the court:

1. The defendant made certain representations to the plaintiff, presenting them as facts;
2. In so doing, the defendant intended the plaintiff to believe the representations;
3. In so doing, the defendant intended the plaintiff to part with something of value;
4. The representations made by the defendant were false;
5. The defendant knew, at the time of making the representations, that they were false;
6. The plaintiff, relying on those representations, parted with something of value;
7. The plaintiff, in so relying, was acting reasonably;
8. The plaintiff suffered damage as a result.

We must note, the church missionaries as well as the church leadership, right across the spectrum, right up to Bishops and Stake Presidents, are teaching investigators and members the following material facts - highlighted in bold – as true. Material facts are not to be confused with dogma or beliefs, which no court will adjudicate, since dogma falls outside the purview of the judiciary to give expression to religious belief, as prescribed by the First Amendment.

The defendant (the church) represented to me in 1971, and continues to represent to this day, the following material facts as true facts:

**A. In 1820, Joseph Smith had a life-changing first vision of God the Father and Jesus Christ.**

The truth is, as historical journals indicate, that Joseph Smith revised his account of the first vision nine different times, embellishing it with each revision. Moreover, he did not record the account of his first vision until twelve years after the fact - until 1832. In his first account, he recounts the appearance of an angel. The account was revised over time with the church's connivance, until the 'official story' was presented to the world, that God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith.

[It begs the question: What kind of an unsophisticated con artist was Joseph Smith to think that he could get away with numerous accounts? That is moot.]

**B. Joseph Smith translated a set of gold plates that contained the history of indigenous peoples in America originating from the Middle East, spanning a period of a thousand years, into the Book of Mormon by the gift of God.**

The truth, I discovered, is that Joseph Smith did neither refer to nor consult any set of gold plates, but dictated the book of Mormon word for word by burying his head into a hat and focusing on a round brown stone. But, even that method is fraud of the highest order.

The true method by which he arrived at this fiction can be summarized as follows: He plagiarized from the Bible, historical texts, and his father's dreams. Entire sections of the book of Mormon paraphrase the ['The Late War'](http://wordtree.org/thelatewar/) by Gilbert J. Hunt.

**C. Joseph Smith translated from a set of Egyptian Papyri what he purported to be the Book of Abraham.**

The truth is that, in 1967, Egyptologists - both Mormon and non-Mormon - determined that the Papyri were simply Funerary Rites for a priest's funeral that made no mention of Abraham, let alone Abraham's travels or his revelations about the creation of the world.

[To add insult to injury, an 'Apostle' of the church, Jeffrey R. Holland, is on [record](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goRh2amv60A), in a BBC interview, as stating that he does not care what the original Papyri contained, as long as the translation resulted in holy scripture. This is an indefensible position, and serves as precedent for possible future fraud. In our corner of the universe only documents which have been translated from authenticated, certified originals have legal standing. For the more in-depth BBC interview, visit [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lPVpUJj_gbs). ]

**d. Joseph Smith was a devoted husband, who was married to only one wife, Emma Smith.**

The truth, we now learn, is that Joseph Smith married forty women (that are so far accounted for), without his first wife's knowledge. Eleven of these women were already married to men of good report. Eleven of these women were teenagers and as young as fourteen. Some of these women were told that if they did not marry Joseph Smith, they and their families would be eternally damned.

The more I researched the more a pattern began to emerge of a delusional, egomaniacal con artist. In fact, one of Smith's own insiders, William Law, his second counsellor, called him one of the most unscrupulous man he had ever known, after Smith pursued Law's wife, for marriage. Not only did Smith consider himself exempt from any moral code, but he had proclaimed himself 'King of the Earth' and 'God to this Generation'.

Had these material facts been disclosed to me at the outset when I was contemplating joining the church, had even one of these salient facts been divulged to me, I would never have joined the church.

And let's be very clear here: at one time, for a church member to question any of these historical facts would subject the member to a disciplinary court hearing, where the member is summarily excommunicated for daring to question the official church narrative.

Parenthetically, in some court hearings, the 'Judge' (the Stake President), will summon witnesses to testify against the church member being disciplined. The accused will not be permitted to face his/her accusers, nor be allowed any counsel – all this in an emotionally charged dynamic. This is justice 'Mormon Style'.

Then, I came upon even more disturbing facts.

As though it were not enough that these salient details in church history had been kept out of public view ever since its inception, the church, in an attempt to mitigate its legal exposure, in recent years published the 'Official Gospel Topics Essays' that are kept buried deep in its web site, out of prying eyes. In other words, what the church once considered anathema, anti-Mormon propaganda, it now discusses as 'Official Essays'. How is that for covering its behind?

Among these 'Essays' the church acknowledges that the Egyptian Papyri were a funerary text; that Joseph Smith was married to numerous women; that Joseph Smith used a brown round stone and buried his head in a hat to conjure the Book of Mormon; and, that there were several accounts of his 'First Vision' recorded over a number of years. Let's pause.

Any reasonable person would have to concede that such a vision of God the Father and Jesus Christ would embed itself in the mind of any mortal; it would leave an unalterable, un-erasable, immutable impression in one's mind. It would be the cardinal experience of a lifetime, and the hing-pin of post-modern Christianity. It would stand as incontrovertible proof that God exists.

Is it reasonable, then, for a person to wait twelve years before such an experience is first recorded or to give multiple variations of the story, ranging from a visit from an angel, to a visit from Jesus, to a visit from Jesus and angels, etc. – a total of nine different versions?

The church couches its explanation in this language:

“The various accounts of the First Vision tell a consistent story, though naturally they differ in emphasis and detail. Historians expect that when an individual retells an experience in multiple settings to different audiences over many years, each account will emphasize various aspects of the experience and contain unique details.”

Do you buy this? I don't. And I don't think any reasonable person buys this. This is the kind of spurious argumentation that pervades the Mormon mindset at the highest echelons.

My assertion is that if Joseph Smith was to stand trial, his testimony would be impeached. And if this is the case, the rest of his claims would be quarantined as fraud. In legal parlance, the Poisonous Fruit poisons the rest of the Mormon tree.

It would be inconceivable for Joseph Smith to have started his religion using such tactics in our age of internet, social media, and cell phone cameras. His era and milieu consisted of uneducated, tribal, superstitious, conniving, often predatory individuals. Many in his inner circle were 'glass lookers', just as he was, uneducated treasure hunters for hire on a mission to make a quick buck. It should be no surprise, then, that Joseph Smith later concocted a plan to bypass banking regulations in the state of Ohio and create an 'Anti-Bank Bank'. How is that for ingenious criminality? Shouldn't this material fact also be presented to unwary investigators researching the church, if the character of the founder is to be gauged? Shouldn't the fact that he fled Ohio a fugitive after the failure of the bank also be included as material fact?

Material facts bear heavily on an individual's decision to join an organization or to stay with it. Material facts – no anecdotal stories - should be disclosed 'front and center' in the General Conferences, Stake Conferences, Sacrament Meetings, Priesthood Meetings, Relief Society Meetings, Sunday School and Primary classes, and missionary discussions to investigators, and should be repeated in the liturgy until they become ingrained in the culture and treated as inviolate as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Material facts are not meant to be kept buried in a web site that hardly anyone visits.

For a church that 'brands' itself as the champion of families, research indicates that families are now being destroyed, as spouses and children become alienated when a family member resigns from the church over its historical material facts. The psychological damage alone produced by the cognitive dissonance, after one realizes that one's life was wasted in a false matrix of prescribed codes of conduct, rituals and myths, leaves one feeling very much like a lab rat. Is it any wonder that Utah has the highest teen suicide rate?

I have taken some liberty in structuring a schedule of general and specific (punitive) damages, without consulting an attorney. They are substantial. And this is from one individual lawsuit, not a class action. The church has taken measures to mitigate lawsuits by propping 'support sites' that purport to assist exiting members in their claims for justice, but, in effect, only act as gatekeeping portals that discourage the launch of lawsuits. They will cite failed cases, for example. But upon closer inspection the cases contain hilarious claims based on dogma rather than on material facts.

The church will do everything in its power to prevent a landmark case from becoming the precedent to a floodgate of lawsuits. The only salutary news is that the exodus from the Mormon church continues unabated. For many ex-Mormons 'Truth' – unfiltered and unadulterated Truth - overrides any church claims to humanitarian work or family values. The exodus is propelled by a confluence of the church's inability to come clean and counterpointed by the church's ostentatious holdings (such as its billion dollar City Creek Center in Salt Lake City). And, in the eye of the storm, is the church's self-indulgent, licentious, megalomaniac founder, Joseph Smith - a repulsive figure - once the church's founder, now its nemesis. To put it in neutral business terms, the church is a failing brand.