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TRUMP'S LITIGIOUSNESS: ASKED AND ANSWERED!

ON MARCH 22, 2016, I wrote an article entitled **VOTERS' RIGHT TO KNOW!** The questions raised were targeted towards Clinton vs. Trump and the legal issues that would follow either one of them into the White House, assuming the two candidates make it to the general election.

One of my major concerns relates to Donald Trump and the allocation of time required toward his obligations to and the amount of the litigation toward him and his companies.

April 26, 2016, under the Bloomberg headline, "**Donald Trump Will See You In Court,**" we learned of the number of lawsuits involving Mr. Trump since the year 2000. According to the article, Trump has been sued 72 times in federal court. These 72 cases represent only federal lawsuits against Trump himself, not those filed against his companies. Altogether, Trump and his companies have either sued or been sued at least 1,300 times since 2000 – this information is based on a Bloomberg analysis of state and federal court filings from around the country. The 1,300 number does not even include lawsuits against Trump dating back to the 1980's, for which court documents are no longer available.

The courts ruled during Bill Clinton's presidency that a president *cannot* postpone litigation until he leaves office. A president's past is fair game for lawsuits while in office.

So, consider this: should Trump become president, and based on past litigation history and the fact that Trump and his companies have licensed his name worldwide, it seems inevitable that additional lawsuits will be filed against him while he resides in the White House. The obligations and time commitment of a President Trump toward the management of his current litigation plus future litigation would be significant.

Up to this point no one seems to be addressing this issue, which at the very least demands scrutiny, and surely will be a general election concern. Additionally, I continue to raise the question regarding transfer of the management of the Trump organization to his family members. Ownership and financial interests in Trump's worldwide assets and licensing agreements appears to be a serious conflict of interest for a sitting president. This issue is not limited to Trump. The same concern about conflict of interest applies to Hillary Clinton and the sources of donations to the Clinton family foundation and its use of those funds.

Where is the mainstream press on these issues? The voters are entitled to full disclosure and legal interpretation.

G.A. Beller is a self-professed political junkie and author of the recently released novel *NOT BLACK AND WHITE: From The Very Windy City to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, published by G. Anton Publishing/Chicago

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