

# Richard DeNapoli, Broward Republican State Committeeman, Cleared of False Allegations; Court Judgments and Fines Assessed Against His Accusers

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(Newswire.com) - Richard DeNapoli, Broward Republican State Committeeman, was cleared of false allegations of having committed voter fraud by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Bar and the Florida Elections Commission. The accusations were made by Javier Manjarres shortly after a court ordered Manjarres to pay DeNapoli \$25,000 for violating a settlement agreement with DeNapoli resulting from a defamation lawsuit DeNapoli filed against Manjarres in 2014. Manjarres is a blogger who publishes Floridian Press.



Manjarres accused Mr. DeNapoli of having voted twice in the 2014 elections and filed complaints with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Bar and Florida Elections Commission. All three of these agencies dismissed these complaints. Manjarres' lawyer even went so far as to request the Florida Bar to reopen the case, but the Florida Bar dismissed the case yet again.

DeNapoli said Manjarres lobbed false 'stolen valor' claims at DeNapoli which led to the 2014 defamation case that DeNapoli filed against Manjarres. The 2014 case ended with a settlement agreement. But Manjarres continued to attack DeNapoli on Twitter and in now-deleted posts to Manjarres' website, so DeNapoli reopened the case and accused Manjarres of breaking the settlement agreement.

**In February 2021, a 12th Judicial Circuit judge agreed, ordering Manjarres to pay \$25,000 for that violation.**

"Defendant, Javier Manjarres, violated the settlement agreement on multiple occasions," wrote Judge Andrea McHugh. "On at least one occasion, Defendant Manjarres admitted to violating ... the mediated settlement agreement by referring to Plaintiff in a publication he personally authored and intentionally published. The nature of the publication was damaging to Plaintiff ... The Court finds this act constitutes 'bad faith' on the part of the Defendant."

[Javier-Manjarres-ordered-to-pay-25K-in-defamation-suit-vs.-Florida-GOP-official.pdf](#)  
(richardforflorida.com)

**In a separate matter, the Florida Elections Commission found Richard's opponent's claims to have been so malicious that Richard's opponent was found to have violated Florida Statutes and the Commission imposed a civil penalty of \$5,000.**

Richard stated that "Unfortunately during my political career, I have been defamed by political opponents. These false claims have long since been debunked, but they are posted online and then further spread when new people locate the posts. I have been cleared of all allegations against me, though allegations often get more attention than vindication. While not a litigious person, I have been forced to defend my good reputation. While I am a firm believer in free speech and have a very thick skin, defamation laws exist to protect people whose careers, reputations, and finances have been damaged by untrue, harmful statements. While very difficult to win a defamation case as an elected official and public figure, a court judgment and fine have in fact been assessed against those falsely accusing me. The results are clear. [I won a \\$25,000 judgment against one opponent and another opponent was found to have attacked me so maliciously he was fined \\$5,000 by the Florida Elections Commission.](#)"

Source: Richard DeNapoli

## About Richard DeNapoli for Florida

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Richard DeNapoli is the Chief Trust Officer & Fiduciary Counsel of a Florida Based Trust Company that manages over \$2 billion in assets.

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