

SHRIVE LAW, LLC

ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

Pennsylvania Office/Firm Headquarters
The Scranton Life Building
538 Biden Street – Suite 418
Scranton, PA 18503

New York State Office
131 Enterprise Road
Johnstown, NY 12095
Attention: Ann Diotte

Phone: (570) 558-7520
Fax: (570) 609-1227
Website: www.shrivelaw.com

Jason A. Shrive, Esquire*
jshrive@shrivelaw.com

Jillian Kochis, Esquire
jkochis@shrivelaw.com

March 26, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

James “Jim” Olecki Unequivocally Denies Baseless and Defamatory Accusations made by Disgruntled Business Associate and Vows to Vigorously Defend Himself

Scranton, PA – James “Jim” Olecki has retained the services of Attorney Jason A. Shrive, of Shrive Law, LLC, to defend him and restore his reputation, after the recent barrage of baseless and defamatory accusations, made against him by disgruntled business associate, Joshua Balz. Olecki vehemently and unequivocally denies the salacious attacks Balz has made against his character. Although Olecki has remained quiet - taking the high road, and not engaging in mudslinging, in the best interest of the business, he can no longer remain silent. Olecki intends to fight these claims to the fullest extent of the law, both civilly and criminally. Olecki is also in the process of drafting a substantial Defamation of Character civil suit against Balz.

Balz has erroneously claimed to be the “majority owner” of the restaurant Noir Dark Spirits and The Ritz Theater, but is, in fact, a co-equal business partner in the business ventures that own and operate these entities, with Olecki’s wife. Olecki single-handedly orchestrated, negotiated, and executed the purchase of The Ritz Theater. Olecki served as the Chief Executive Officer of the business ventures, and as such ran all of the day-to-day business affairs, until recently, and not merely as a “consultant”, “business associate”, or “business manager”, as has been inconsistently claimed by Balz, in his various versions of this story. Balz recently,

**Licensed to Practice Law in Pennsylvania & New York.*

unilaterally, and without legal authority barred Olecki from the premises. These are just some examples of the many untruths contained in Balz's Press Release of February 5, 2025, his legally deficient Civil Complaint, the media coverage that has followed the same, and the one-sided information Balz has now provided to law enforcement, that has led to the filing of a single count of Theft by Unlawful Taking against Olecki, today. It is ironic that Balz, who did not put any equity into the business venture, is now coincidentally claiming that the amount allegedly "stolen" by Olecki, is the approximate amount of the capital contribution made by Olecki and his wife, to buy in to the business. More will be revealed about Balz's improper and inappropriate business dealings as the cases unfold.

This is a Civil dispute between owners and executives of a business, where one party is trying to gain financial and bargaining advantage over the other, by utilizing the Criminal Justice System. Olecki voluntarily turned himself in to authorities, this morning, and was released on Unsecured Bail. He maintains his innocence and that there was no Criminal wrongdoing here. Olecki believes that law enforcement will agree, after a full and thorough investigation is conducted, wherein both sides of the dispute are heard.

Olecki is urging his family, friends, many business associates, and members of the broader Scranton community, to disregard Balz's smear campaign and to see it for what Olecki believes it truly is, an attempt at a hostile takeover of a business enterprise, that Olecki founded and operated, without Balz having to pay fair market value for the same.

For Additional Information Contact:

Jason A. Shrive, Esq.
Phone: (570) 558-7520
E-mail: jshrive@shrivelaw.com

SHRIVE LAW, LLC

Phone: (570) 558-7520 • Fax: (570) 609-1227 • Website: www.shrivelaw.com
