

# Before you hit send...

Brian Liu  
Global National

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

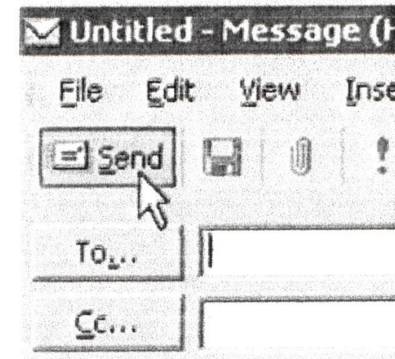
The next time you plan on sending out a nasty email, think twice, and consider the story of a 24-year-old from Boston whose email spat with her prospective employer was heard 'round the world -- and has made her the most famous, perhaps notorious, lawyer in America.

Two weeks ago, Dianna L. Abdala, a graduate from Boston's Suffolk University Law School, and a self-confessed "trust-fund baby," went job hunting at local law firms and landed an interview with William A. Korman of Korman & Associates.

Two interviews later, she landed a job at the firm.

However, when she got a glimpse of the compensation packaged, she balked, and backed out.

The following is the email correspondence between Korman and Abdala that, in our day and age of instant communication, didn't take long to make its way around the globe and into thousands of email inboxes:



# EMAILS

FROM: Dianna Abdala  
SENT: Friday, February 03, 2006 9:23PM  
TO: William A. Korman  
SUBJECT: Thank you

Dear Attorney Korman,

At this time, I am writing to inform you that I will not be accepting your offer.

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the pay you are offering would neither fulfill me nor support the lifestyle I am living in light of the work I would be doing for you. I have decided instead to work for myself, and reap 100% of the benefits that I sow.

Thank you for the interviews.

Dianna L. Abdala, Esq.

# EMAILS

FROM: William A. Korman  
SENT: Monday, February 06, 2006 12:15 PM  
TO: Dianna Abdala  
SUBJECT: RE: Thank you

Dianna - -

Given that you had two interviews, were offered and accepted the job (indeed, you had a definite start date), I am surprised that you chose an e-mail and a 9:30 PM voicemail message to convey this information to me. It smacks of immaturity and is quite unprofessional. Indeed, I did rely upon your acceptance by ordering stationary and business cards with your name, reformatting a computer and setting up both internal and external e-mails for you here at the office. While I do not quarrel with your reasoning, I am extremely disappointed in the way this played out. I sincerely wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Will Korman

# EMAILS

FROM: Dianna Abdala  
SENT: Monday, February 06, 2006 4:01PM  
TO: William A. Korman  
SUBJECT: Re: Thank you

A real lawyer would have put the contract into writing and not exercised any such reliance until he did so.

Again, thank you.

# EMAILS

FROM: William A. Korman

SENT: Monday, February 06, 2006 4:18PM

TO: Dianna Abdala

SUBJECT: RE: Thank you

Thank you for the refresher course on contracts. This is not a bar exam question. You need to realize that this is a very small legal community, especially the criminal defense bar. Do you really want to start pissing off more experienced lawyers at this early stage of your career?

# EMAILS

FROM: Dianna Abdala

SENT: Monday, February 06, 2006 4:28 PM

TO: William A. Korman

SUBJECT: Thank you

bla bla bla

# EMAILS

Within days, the email was forwarded to friends, throughout the Boston legal community, and then onto national and international news organizations....

While Korman had defended his decision to initially forward the email spat to a friend, saying that all he did was “forward a non-privileged, non-client communication to somebody who then chose to forward it along,” Abdala has reported the incident to the Board of Bar Overseers for “unprofessional and unethical” conduct for forwarding her email, also claiming that the incident has jeopardized her legal career.

