**Summary:**

Sean Hannity, a FOX talkshow and radio host, is suing CNN for slander. Why you ask? Brian Stelter stated previously this week, that the conservative media has been generating speculation about Hillary Clinton’s health prior to the reveal that she in fact was suffering from pneumonia. Huffington Post provides a direct quote from Stelter stating, “These are people who bring up rumors and innuendo about Clinton’s health and have been doing it for years”. He continues to say, “I’m not saying Hannity or Limbaugh fit into these [categories] necessarily, but some of these figures want her to be sick. They want her to be dying. They want her to be on her death bed.”

Earlier this week, Sean Hannity utilized a [video](http://twitchy.com/gregp-3534/2016/08/12/sean-hannity-uses-ap-reporter-as-proof-hillary-has-health-issues-but-theres-just-one-problem/) on his six minute segment, “Hillary’s Health”. This video shows Clinton in the middle of a press conference at a coffee shop, Hillary Clinton seems to have had somewhat of a seizure during the interview. He wanted to further investigate Hilary’s health complications. Hannity narrates this video as it loops continuously saying she is doing a violent repetitive jerking of the head, etc. He proceeds to continue, “Watch the reporter, like, pull back as she — the reporter got scared. And she keeps doing it. What is that?” Reporter [Lisa Lerer](https://twitter.com/llerer?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) has since spoken up about this issue, stating she wasn’t scared for a second, and was never asked if she was scared by FOX or Hannity.

Now the question remains, does Hannity have a case to sue for slander? Not really. The remark concerning Clinton’s death bed was not necessarily targeted towards Stelter. If Stelter’s claims that Hannity’s remarks and allegations were false, caused damage to his reputation or inflicted emotional distress, it would fall under Title 28, of US Public Law 4101, Defamation. On his radio talkshow, Sean Hannity speaks about how hard it is to sue as a public figure. Huffington Post remarks that if Trump is elected president, he wants to open libel laws to facilitate the process of suing journalists.

**Opinion:**

The way people have been communicating to each other, especially during this election has truly opened my eyes. The lack of communication is a huge risk factor to the well-being of our country. Think of our country as a work place. Shouldn't we be using the same algorithm we use to run a company? Think of Trump and Clinton as employees attempting to receive the promotion. There is no respect among colleagues. Would this organizational climate be a healthy one to work in? It would be a nightmare. In a traditional workplace, this would be considered incivility. Reporter Lisa Lerer demonstrated great social intelligence by stating what happened at the press conference, following up with the accusation that was made (that she was frightened), and proceeded to state that she in fact was not scared. She also did not threaten to sue, perhaps because she knew as a reporter that he has the right to his own perception. All she can do is speak her truth. The last sentence of my summary is important. Trump wants to try to eliminate the defamation law. This defamation law allows journalists to report the truth without fear of being sued. It also facilitates communication, and helps to decrease incivility. Without this law, we the people may be even more limited in obtaining accurate information.

**References:**

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/4101>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sean-hannity-sue-cnn_us_57dba6fae4b0071a6e066f32?ir=Media&utm_hp_ref=media>

<http://twitchy.com/gregp-3534/2016/08/12/sean-hannity-uses-ap-reporter-as-proof-hillary-has-health-issues-but-theres-just-one-problem/>