

Press Release

Carter-Ruck

Date: 21 June 2012

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Sergei Polonsky serves libel proceedings on Alexander Lebedev

The proprietor of the *Evening Standard* and the *Independent* newspapers, Alexander Lebedev, has been served in London with libel proceedings brought by the Russian businessman, Sergei Polonsky. The libel action follows footage from a Russian television debate, broadcast on 18 September 2011 and widely circulated online, in which Mr Lebedev is seen to throw punches at a seated Mr Polonsky.

The progress of the proceedings, issued on 18 October 2011 in the High Court in London, has been held up by Mr Lebedev's refusal to accept service in this country, despite publicly declaring that he was "*ready for the legal challenge*" and "*was not going to be like Abramovich*", who was of course famously served with legal proceedings in a Sloane Street shop. Copies of the proceedings had previously been sent to Mr Lebedev at the offices of the *Evening Standard* in London, to his residence in England, to his lawyer's office in London and handed to him in person in Moscow, but all had been ignored.

Mr Polonsky is represented by Carter-Ruck in conjunction with the London office of the law firm Alexander Dobrovinsky and Partners LLP.

For further information, please contact Andrew Stephenson (Andrew.Stephenson@carter-ruck.com) or Lucy Middleton (Lucy.Middleton@carter-ruck.com) on 0207 3535005.

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