

Beat: Politics

## **SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES, A LEADING ADVOCATE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE**

### **STOP PORTRAYING WOMEN AS TARGETS**

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**USPA NEWS** - In the wake of a Bloomingdale's holiday catalogue advertisement that urged readers to 'Spike Your Best Friend's Eggnog When They're Not Looking', Judge Judy Harris Kluger today called on Bloomingdale's and other industry leaders to stop perpetuating images that portray women as targets of sexual...

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Judge Kluger is the Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families, a leading service provider and advocate for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking and related forms of gender violence.

The text of her letter to Tony Spring, Bloomingdale's Chairman and CEO is below.

Dear Mr. Spring,

Selling Bloomingdale's products by promoting rape culture is far more serious than a simple 'error in judgment.'

What message could you have possibly intended to send with the ad, Spike Your Best Friend's Eggnog When They're Not Looking ? That it's OK to become a date rapist for the holidays ?

Any high school student would have known better. In fact, in our work to combat gender violence, we showed your catalogue ad to a group of students who are involved in a leadership program for girls. Their immediate reactions were visceral.

The ad made them feel scared, disgusted and disrespected. One student asked, 'Is Bloomingdale's really promoting rape?'

We will never know the true extent to which date rape drugs “ like spiked eggnog “ are used.

But, as a former New York State Supreme Court Judge and sex crimes prosecutor before that, I know first-hand how dangerous these powerful drugs can be. A common side effect is memory loss. Victims awake from a drug-induced state, sick, frightened, hurt and unable to recall the attack.

And for those who are able to remember, they are often too embarrassed to report the crime. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 82 % of sexual assaults are committed by a non-stranger, much like the 'friend' in your ad.

Glamorizing violence against women in advertising is not new, but it is time to stop. It is time that advertising and media executives and industry leaders, like yourself, step up and pledge to stop perpetuating images that portray women as easy targets of sexual violence.

Source : Sanctuary for Families

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