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Ethics in Current Events

Introduction

The news article chosen to explain the breach in business ethics is from New York Times. This article has been written to provide readers with an overview of the current situation between JPMorgan and Charlie Javice. It reports the acquisition of Charlie Javice’s startup, by JPMorgan, with the intent of using the platform to reach five million customers. Charlie Javice created a company called Frank to help college students with their financial aid forms. JPMorgan wanted to buy it and promised her \$20 million if she sold it. After closing the merger, JPMorgan sent out emails to 400,000 of Frank’s customers but only successfully reached the inbox of just 28 percent, out of which only 103 people clicked on the link. The bank then accused Javice of manipulating data, and they believe Charlie used fake data to make it look like she had more customers than she did and is now suing her for this. In response to this, Javice hired Alex Spiro to represent her. Javice filed a suit against JPMorgan seeking legal expenses, arguing that the bank was contractually obligated to cover them since they conducted an internal investigation. Spiro denies any of the allegations and claims that JPMorgan is falsely accusing Javice in order to retrade the deal. Meanwhile, JPMorgan’s CEO Jamie Dimon called the Frank acquisition a “huge mistake” (Lieber, 2023). It is unclear whether any settlement between the parties will take place and remain private if it does. Neither of Frank's investors nor Javice’s mentors has commented on her behalf. Overall, this situation paints an interesting picture of what can happen when two parties enter into a merger.

I believe that integrity is the highest standard that has to be maintained when it comes to doing business. Compromising one’s integrity could lead to disastrous consequences and a bad reputation. The ethical implications in the situation of JP Morgan and Javice are far-reaching; trustworthiness and integrity have been seriously violated. Specifically, it appears that Charlie

Javice failed to uphold these standards and may have misrepresented her company's success to make it appear more desirable to potential buyers. If she did indeed use false data to inflate her customer numbers, this would be a serious breach of trust and business ethics. This could lead to long-term damage to her reputation. Furthermore, it could also be considered fraudulent behavior and a violation of the law. JPMorgan's decision to sue Charlie Javice in response to their alleged losses could potentially be seen as retaliation. Regardless of the outcome, this situation highlights the importance of trustworthiness and integrity in business transactions. It also serves as an important reminder that honesty is essential when dealing with customers and other parties.

To prevent this situation, it is important for all parties involved in a business transaction to be aware of the legal and ethical implications of their actions. It is also important to ensure that accurate and truthful information is provided when making any deals. To respond to this situation now, it would be best to try and reach an amicable resolution through negotiation or mediation. This could help ensure that all parties are satisfied with the outcome and can move forward without any lingering animosity. According to the Harvard Business Review, "Mediation can help both sides come away with something they want—and avoid the risk of going before a judge or jury" (Staff, 2022). In addition to this, it is important for both sides to be willing to compromise in order for a resolution to be reached. This could help ensure that all parties are satisfied with the outcome and can move forward without any lingering animosity.

References

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