

Juror #: _____

SUPPLEMENTAL JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. AGE: _____ GENDER: Male Female
2. City of residence: _____ Zip code: _____
3. Do you (check one): Own your home Rent your home Live with other homeowners
 Live with relatives Other: _____
4. How long have you lived in Mississippi? _____
5. Where else have you lived in Mississippi, and how long did you live there?

6. Which of the following best describes your current employment status (check all that apply):
 Employed full-time Employed part-time Self-employed Unemployed
 Retired Disabled Student Homemaker
 Other: _____
7. How long have/did you work at your current/last job? _____
8. What are/were your main responsibilities at your most recent job? _____

9. In the course of your job, do you ever have to deal with lawyers? YES NO
10. Have you ever been responsible for: Hiring Firing Supervising employees? No
11. What jobs have you held in the past? _____

12. Which of the following best describes your current marital status: Single Married
 Live with partner/significant other Separated Divorced Widow(ed)
13. If you are married/living with someone, for how many years? _____
14. How many times have you been married? _____
15. If you have a spouse, partner or significant other, what is (or was) this person's occupation? (If he/she is retired, unemployed, homemaker, or disabled, what was their last job?)

16. What jobs has this person worked in the past? _____

17. Please list the sex, age and occupation for your children and step-children:

18. Have you or anyone in your family ever had training or employment in: Court system (local, state or federal), F.B.I., federal government, insurance industry, law or law office, law enforcement, local government, or state government or legislature? YES NO If YES, please explain:

19. Have you had any experience, training or education in: Accounting, arbitration, business, criminal law, ethics, hurricane disaster or relief, insurance, law, law enforcement, legal profession, psychology, settlements, or wire tapping? YES NO If YES, briefly explain: _____

20. Other than a traffic ticket, have you, any family members or friends ever been investigated, arrested, indicted, tried, or convicted for any crime? YES NO If YES, briefly explain:

21. Have you, any family members or friends ever worked for or contributed time or money to, any law enforcement agency(ies)? YES NO If YES, who and what agency(ies)?

22. Do you know anyone who has ever worked for the U.S. Department of Justice or the FBI? YES NO If YES, who and which agency(ies)? _____

23. Have you or anyone close to you ever held a job that involved filing, receiving or investigating insurance claims? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

24. On a scale of 1 (Very Positive) to 10 (Very Negative), what are your feelings and opinions of insurance companies? [Please circle ONE number that best describes your feelings/opinions.]

Very Positive Very Negative
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PLEASE TELL US WHY YOU FEEL THIS WAY: _____

25. Were you or anyone you know injured, financially harmed or negatively affected in any other way as a result of Hurricane Katrina? YES NO If YES, briefly explain: _____

26. Do you know anyone who is/was a party to any litigation regarding the damage done by Hurricane Katrina? YES NO If YES, please tell us about that situation: _____

27. Have you heard or read about any of the lawsuits brought against insurance companies as a result of Hurricane Katrina? YES NO If YES, please tell us what you have heard or read:

28. Do you have any family members or close friends who are attorneys? YES NO If YES, who, what type of law does this person practice, what firm does this person work for and what is your relationship to this person? _____

29. Have you or anyone close to you ever hired an attorney or law firm for any reason? YES NO If YES, who hired the lawyer, what was the name of the lawyer, when was the lawyer hired and what was the reason for hiring the lawyer? _____

30. Have you, any family members or friends ever had a bad experience with a lawyer? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

31. Which of the following best describes your opinion of lawyers in general:

Very Positive Positive Neutral Negative Very Negative

Why do you feel this way? _____

32. In general, what are your opinions or feelings about lawyers who bring lawsuits on behalf of plaintiffs? _____

33. Which of the following best describes your opinion of personal injury lawyers:

Very Positive Positive Neutral Negative Very Negative

Why do you feel this way? _____

34. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please check (✓) one box for each statement:

- a. Being a lawyer is an honorable profession. Agree Disagree
- b. Lawyers care about their clients. Agree Disagree
- c. Lawyers do the best that they can to help their clients. Agree Disagree
- d. Lawyers are honest. Agree Disagree
- e. Lawyers make a positive contribution to society. Agree Disagree

35. Have you or anyone you know ever filed a complaint or considered filing a complaint against a lawyer or law firm? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

36. If given the opportunity, would you want to be a lawyer? YES NO PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER: _____

37. Do you read a daily newspaper? YES NO If YES, which one(s)? _____

38. What radio and television programs do you enjoy?

- a. TV: _____
- b. Radio: _____

39. Have you followed news accounts of any trials in the news? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

40. Do you post or read internet blogs? YES NO If YES, which ones and why? _____

41. Have you heard, read or seen anything in the media lately about lawyers who have been accused of committing a crime(s)? YES NO If YES, please tell us what you remember reading, hearing or seeing and who was charged with the crime(s): _____

42. On a scale of 1 = Very unlikely to 10 = Very likely, in your opinion, how likely is it that a lawyer(s) who is accused of attempting to bribe a judge is guilty of the charge?

Very unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Likely	Very likely					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

WHY DO YOU FEEL THIS WAY? _____

43. Using a scale of 1=Strongly Agree to 10=Strongly Disagree, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *A wealthy, successful and well-known lawyer would not bribe a judge.* [Circle only ONE number that best describes your feelings/opinions.]

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

WHY DO YOU FEEL THIS WAY? _____

44. Approximately how many times do you remember reading, hearing or seeing any media reports about Richard “Dickie” Scruggs, Zachary Scruggs or Sidney Backstrom?

More than 20 10 to 20 5 to 10 Less than 5 None

45. From which source(s) have you heard, read, or seen anything about Richard “Dickie” Scruggs, Zachary Scruggs, Sidney Backstrom or this case [Select all that apply]:

TV news Radio Newspapers Magazines Internet Word of mouth

Other: _____

46. Of all the things you have heard, read or seen about Richard “Dickie” Scruggs, Zachary Scruggs, Sidney Backstrom or this case, what stands out the most in your mind?

47. Have you formed any opinions on whether Richard “Dickie” Scruggs, Zachary Scruggs or Sidney Backstrom are guilty of any of the charges in this case? YES NO If YES, please explain:

48. Have you heard others express opinions about Richard “Dickie” Scruggs, Zachary Scruggs, Sidney Backstrom, or this case? YES NO If YES, what opinions were expressed?

49. Which of the following best reflects your opinion of whether Richard "Dickie" Scruggs, Zachary Scruggs or Sidney Backstrom are guilty of any of the charges in this case (please circle one number for each):

Guilty

Not Guilty

No Opinion

- a. Richard "Dickie" Scruggs 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- b. Zachary Scruggs 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- c. Sidney Backstrom 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

50. Using a scale of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 10 (Strongly Agree), do you believe everyone should be treated equally under the law? Please circle the ONE number that best describes your feelings or opinions:

Strongly Disagree

Neutral

Strongly Agree

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PLEASE TELL US WHY YOU FEEL THIS WAY: _____

51. Have you or anyone close to you ever been treated unfairly by any branch of government?

YES NO If YES, please identify the government agency and explain what happened:

52. Some of the government's witnesses in this case are testifying as part of a plea bargain. What are your feelings or opinions about a person who has pled Guilty to a crime and agreed to testify for the government in exchange for a reduced sentence? _____

53. What are your feelings or opinions about law enforcement's use of Court-authorized telephone wire taps in conducting an investigation? _____

54. Regarding lawsuits, have you or anyone close to you ever been:

a. A Plaintiff [the party bringing a lawsuit]? YES NO

b. A Defendant [the party being sued in a lawsuit]? YES NO

c. A Witness or testified in a lawsuit or trial? YES NO

If YES, to any of the above, briefly explain: _____

55. In most situations, do you consider yourself to be a: Leader Follower Team player

56. Please list your 3 favorite television shows: (1) _____
 (2) _____ (3) _____
57. Please list the 3 people you admire *most*: (1) _____
 (2) _____ (3) _____
58. Please list the 3 people you admire *least*: (1) _____
 (2) _____ (3) _____
59. If you could have dinner with *any* three people, living or dead, with whom would you dine?
 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
60. Do you listen to talk radio? YES NO If YES, to which programs do you listen and why?

61. Do you watch any law or police related shows on television? YES NO If YES, to which programs do you listen and why? _____

62. Which of the following words best describe you?
 Assertive Analytical Cautious Courageous Decisive
 Detailed Dedicated Impulsive Judgmental Law & Order
 Logical Loner Loyal Negotiator Opinionated
 Organizer Outspoken Persuasive Politically active Practical
 Religious Skeptical Snap-decision Strict Thoughtful
 Trusting Thoughtful Trusting Pro-government Visual
63. Do you now or have you ever had a bumper sticker on your car? YES NO If YES, what does/did it say? _____

64. What is your religion? Baptist Catholic Jewish Methodist Protestant
 Southern Baptist Other: _____ No preference
65. Approximately how often do you attend church or religious services? Never
 Rarely Several times a year Once a month
 Several times a month Once a week Several times a week
66. What is your race? _____
67. Do you consider yourself to be [Check only ONE]:
 Very Conservative Conservative Moderate Liberal Very Liberal
68. With what political party are you affiliated: Democrat Republican
 Independent Libertarian Other: _____ None

69. Have you ever had a bumper sticker on your car or a sign on your property in support of someone who was running for Judge? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

70. Have you ever donated time or money to a judicial campaign? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

71. How closely would you say you follow Mississippi state politics?

Very closely Closely Somewhat closely Rarely Do not follow

72. Do you or anyone close to you know or have any connection to any of the prosecutors in this case [Select all that apply]: Thomas Dawson Jim Greenlee Robert Norman David Sanders
If you selected any of the above, what is the connection and with whom?

73. Do you or anyone close to you know or have any connection to any of the following defense lawyers [Select all that apply]:

Warren Braunig Jim Craig Brook Dooley Nathan Garrett Todd Graves
 John Kecker Travis LeBlanc Jan Little Rhea Tannehill Frank Trapp

If you selected any of the above, what is the connection and with whom?

74. Have you or any family members had any contact with Judge Neal B. Biggers or Judge Henry Lackey? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

75. Do you or anyone close to you know or have any connection to Timothy Balducci, Joseph "Joey" Langston, or Steven Patterson? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

76. Please tell us one more thing you feel is important that we should know about you:

77. There are three defendants in this case. Each defendant and each charge must be considered separately. You cannot find a defendant guilty on any count unless the government has proven his guilt on that count beyond a reasonable doubt. You must not draw any conclusion from the fact that the defendants are on trial together, and you must not find one defendant guilty by reason of your finding another defendant guilty. Would you have any problem or difficulty following these rules? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

78. This trial is expected to last 2 to 3 weeks. A trial of this length is an extraordinary hardship on virtually every juror. Do you have such a severe hardship that it would be impossible to serve as a juror in this case? YES NO If YES, please explain and provide as much detail as possible:

79. Is there anything of a personal or professional nature that might make it difficult for you to concentrate on this trial? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

80. Is there any matter not covered by this questionnaire that you think the attorneys or court might want to know about when considering you as a juror in this case? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

81. Is there anything not covered by this questionnaire that may affect your ability to be a totally fair and impartial juror in this case? YES NO If YES, please explain: _____

OATH

I hereby swear or affirm that the answers contained in this Supplemental Juror Questionnaire are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Signature

Date

LEXSEE 119 F SUPP 2D 589

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VERSUS EDWIN EDWARDS, ET AL.

CRIMINAL ACTION No. 98-165-B-M2

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA**

119 F. Supp. 2d 589; 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15792

July 27, 2000, Decided

July 27, 2000, Filed

DISPOSITION: [**1] Motion of the United States for an anonymous jury GRANTED.

COUNSEL: For EDWIN EDWARDS, defendant: Richard G. Crane, Corrections & Sentencing Law, Nashville, TN.

Edwin Edwards, defendant, Pro se, Baton Rouge, LA.

For EDWIN EDWARDS, defendant: Daniel I. Small, Butters, Brazilian & Small, LLP, Boston, MA.

STEPHEN EDWARDS, defendant, Pro se, Baton Rouge, LA.

For STEPHEN EDWARDS, defendant: James M. Cole, Bryan Cave LLP, Washington, DC.

For CECIL BROWN, defendant: Rebecca L. Hudsmith, Federal Public Defenders Office for Middle and Western Districts of LA, Lafayette, LA.

For ANDREW MARTIN, defendant: Servando C. Garcia, III, Ryan J. Roemershauser, Garcia & Bishop, Metairie, LA.

For ANDREW MARTIN, defendant: William H. Jeffress, Jr., James R. Heavner, Jr., Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin, LLP, Washington, DC.

For BOBBY JOHNSON, defendant: James Michael Small, Law Offices of J. Michael Small, Alexandria, LA.

U. S. Attorneys: James B. Letten, Peter G. Strasser, Thomas L. Watson, Department of Justice, United States

Attorneys Office, Michael William Magner, Stephen A. Higginson, United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana, Eddie J. Jordan, [**2] Jr., United States Attorney's Office, New Orleans, LA.

JUDGES: FRANK J. POLOZOLA, CHIEF JUDGE, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

OPINION BY: FRANK J. POLOZOLA

OPINION

[*590] **RULING**

The United States of America ¹ filed a Motion for an Anonymous Jury in this case. ² The defendants opposed the motion. ³ On January 7, 2000, the Court granted the government's motion. ⁴ The Court now assigns its reasons for granting the government's motion.

1 The United States of America will hereinafter sometimes be referred to as "the government" and "the United States."

2 Rec. Doc. No. 278.

3 Rec. Doc. No. 296.

4 Rec. Doc. No. 887.

BACKGROUND

The grand jury for the Middle District of Louisiana returned a 34-count indictment and later a superseding indictment against Edwin W. Edwards, Stephen Edwards, Cecil Brown, Andrew Martin, Bobby Johnson, Gregory Tarver, and Ecotry Fuller. This indictment charged,

APPENDIX A

Juror No.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

CHIEF JUDGE FRANK J. POLOZOLA

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VERUS
EDWIN W. EDWARDS, STEPHEN EDWARDS
CECIL BROWN, ANDREW MARTIN, GREGORY
TARVER, BOBBY JOHNSON, ECOTRY FULLER**

CRIMINAL ACTION

NUMBER 98-165-B-M2

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to speed up the process of jury selection, a juror questionnaire has been prepared for you to complete. These questions should be answered by you and returned to the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in the enclosed envelope. **A response is required by December 17, 1999.** Do not place your name, address or place of employment anywhere on this questionnaire. Your name, address or place of employment should only be [**71] placed on the cover sheet attached to the questionnaire. Please place your signature on the cover sheet. Your answers will have the effect of a statement made under oath.

The questionnaire is designed to obtain information about your background as it relates to your possible service as a juror in this case. Its use will avoid the necessity of asking each prospective juror every one of these questions in open court, thereby substantially shortening the jury selection process.

All information contained in this questionnaire will be kept confidential. It will be reviewed only by the Court and by the attorneys on each side. Neither your identities nor your answers will be released to the general public or the media. You will be identified at trial only by your juror number.

Respond to each question as fully and completely as possible. Your complete candor and honesty is necessary so that both the prosecution and the defense will have a

meaningful opportunity to select an appropriate jury. Your cooperation is of vital importance.

[*611] Because the questionnaire is part of the jury selection process, the questionnaires are to be answered under your oath as a prospective juror to tell the truth. [**72] You are instructed not to discuss this case or the questionnaire with anyone, including your family, friends, co-workers and fellow jurors. **You must complete the questionnaire yourself without consulting, talking to or seeking assistance from anyone.**

If you require additional space for your response or wish to make further comments regarding any of your answers, please use the additional blank pages attached to the back of your questionnaire. Please identify by number the question you are responding to on the blank page.

Please keep in mind that there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. Your answers will assist the Court and the parties in selecting an appropriate jury.

Please fill out the entire questionnaire. Do not leave any questions blank. If you are unable to answer a question or do not understand the question, please answer "do not know" or "do not understand" in the space after the question.

PLEASE WRITE OR PRINT LEGIBLY. IF YOUR ANSWERS ARE ILLEGIBLE, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO RE-COPY YOUR ANSWERS.

Thank you for your full cooperation. It is of vital importance to the Court that you return your completed questionnaire by **DECEMBER 17, 1999.**

1. Age: [**73]
2. Gender: Male Female
3. What is your race?

- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black/African-American
- Asian
- Native American

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Other:

IF YES, please state the nature of the problem(s):

4. Do you have any difficulty reading, speaking, or understanding the English language? Yes No

9. Jury service is one of the highest duties and privileges of a citizen of the United States. Mere inconvenience or the usual financial hardships of jury service will be insufficient to excuse a prospective juror. Jurors are paid \$ 40.00 per day plus mileage expenses. Do you wish to apply to the Court to be excused on the ground that jury service would be a serious hardship?

5. Do you speak or understand any languages in addition to English?

Yes What language(s):

Yes No

No

IF YES, please briefly explain the hardship:

6. Do you have:

Any difficulty hearing

10. Is there anything else of a personal or professional nature that might make it difficult for you to concentrate on this trial?

Yes No

Yes No

Any difficulty seeing

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

Primary responsibility for a young child,

Residential History

a disabled or elderly relative

11. City of residence: Zip Code:

Yes No

12. Do you: (check one)

Regular doctor's appointments for a chronic health problem

Own your home

Yes No

Rent your home

IF YES, please briefly explain:

Live with other [**75] homeowners

7. Are you taking any medication on a regular basis?

Live with relatives, if so state relationship:

Yes No

13. How long have you lived in Louisiana? years

IF YES, which ones:

Where else have you lived in Louisiana, and how long did you live there?

Please answer the following questions even if the Court has previously denied your request to be excused for hardship reasons. The Court will reconsider any request to be excused for hardship reasons.

14. Please list the places outside Louisiana where you have lived and how long you have lived there:

[**74] 8. The Court estimates that the trial of this case may last 2-3 months. Do you have any personal problems or medical condition(s) which could affect your ability to serve as a juror in a trial of this length?

15. Where were you born?

[*612] Yes No

Background/Family History

In answering questions 16-31 do not give the name or address of any employer or employer's business. If a question asks about an occupation, only provide a general description about the nature of that occupation. (For example: construction, A/C, plumbing, government, etc.)

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16. Marital status: (check one)
- Divorced for _____ years; married for _____ years
 - Single (never married)
 - Widowed for _____ years; married for _____ years
 - Living with a partner for _____ years
 - Married for _____ years
 - Separated for _____ years; married for _____ years

17. If you have children, stepchildren or grandchildren, please list: (do NOT list names)

Relationship	Age	Education	Occupation	Does he/she live with you?

[**76]

name of employer's business.

[*613] **Employment**

18. Current employment status (check **any and all** that apply):

- Self-employed
- Work full-time
- Work part-time
- Homemaker for _____ years
- Student for _____ years

22. Length of employment at current or last job: (years)(months)

23. Do you work for a:

- Small company (Less than 50 employees)
- Large company (50 employees or more)
- [**77] Self-employed Company name: _____
- Government agency -- Specify: _____
- Other: _____

Disabled and unable to work for _____ years or months

24. How satisfied are you with your current work situation?

- Unemployed/laid off for _____ years or months
- Retired for _____ years
- Other: _____

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Not working

19. What is or was your occupation? (If you are retired, unemployed, homemaker, or disabled, what was your last job?) Do NOT list name of employer or name of employer's business.

25. Have you ever been laid off?

20. What are (were) your main responsibilities on your most recent job?

Yes No

21. Please state the nature of your current or last employer's business (e.g. construction, A/C, plumbing, government, etc.) Do NOT list name of employer or

IF YES, please explain:

26. Do you supervise other people?

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Yes No

If yes, how many?

Did you hire/fire others?

Yes No

Describe your responsibilities:

27. Whether or not you are currently employed, please complete the following information for **previous** jobs and employers: (Do NOT include current job and Do NOT list name of employer or name of employer's business.)

[*614]

Job Title or Kind of Work	Length

28. Have you or anyone in your family ever had **training or employment** in the following:

Federal government

Yes No

Internal Revenue Service

Yes No

State government or legislature

Yes [*78] No

Local government

Yes No

Law enforcement (local, state, or federal)

Yes No

Court system (local, state, or federal)

Yes No

Law or law office

Yes No

Gaming industry

Yes No

IF YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, please explain whether this is yourself or a relative, courses or job(s) held, and dates of employment:

29. Have you taken any courses or had training in business, finance, or accounting?

Yes No

Please explain:

30. Have you ever owned or invested in a business?

Yes No

a. Are you still operating the business?

Yes No

IF NO, why not?

b. Please describe the business but do not give the name:

c. Was this experience: (check one)
positive negative mixed

Please explain:

31. Have you or your employer ever done business or sought to do business with any state government agency?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

a. [*79] Were you or your employer treated fairly by the state agency?

Yes No

b. Was this experience: (check one)

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positive negative mixed

Please explain:

32. What is the highest grade or degree you completed in school?

If more than high school, please fill in below:

Education

Dates	Area(s) of study/training	Degree/Certificate

33. When you were in school, what was your:

[*615]

Favorite Subject	Least Favorite Subject

35. What is your spouse's or partner's age?

Military

34. Have you ever been in the military?

Yes No

IF YES, which branch? What was your rank and dates of service, and what type of discharge did you receive?

If you served in the military, please describe the types of jobs you had, any special training, including law enforcement or military courts, and the types of skills you acquired.

36. Spouse or partner's current employment status (check **any and all** that apply):

Self-employed

Work full-time

Work part-time

Homemaker for years

Student for years

Disabled and unable to work for years or months

Unemployed for years or months

Retired for years

Other:

Your Spouse or Partner's Background

Please complete all of the following questions regarding your present spouse or [*80] non-married partner. If you are widowed, divorced, or separated, please complete all the following questions regarding your former spouse or partner.

37. What is or was your spouse or partner's occupation? (If he/she is retired, unemployed, homemaker, or disabled, what was their last job?) Do NOT list name of employer or name of employer's business.

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38. What are (or were) your spouse or partner's duties and responsibilities:

39. List the nature of your spouse or partner's current or last employer(s)' business (e.g., construction, plumbing, government, etc.). Do NOT list name of employer or name of employer's business.

[**81]

40. Length of **spouse/partner's** employment at current or last job: years

41. What other types of work has he/she done?

42. Was your spouse/partner ever laid off?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

43. What is the last grade or degree your spouse or partner completed in school?

[*616] **If more than high school**, please fill in below:

Dates	Area(s) of study/training	Degree/Certificate

Activities

44. Have you ever done any volunteer work?

Yes No

IF YES, please describe:

45. Have you or your family been involved in any organizations, such as educational, religious, professional or political groups?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

46. Have you or has your spouse/partner ever belonged to a union?

Yes No

IF YES, who: Self Spouse/Partner

Dates of Membership: Self to Spouse/Partner to

47. Have you ever held a leadership position [****82**] in any organization?

Yes No

IF YES, please list the leadership positions you have held:

48. In terms of political party affiliation, are you a:

Democrat

Republican

Independent

Libertarian

Other:

None

49. Do you consider yourself to be politically:

Extremely Liberal

Liberal

Moderate

Conservative

Extremely Conservative

None of the above

50. Have you, or anyone close to you, ever run for,

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been appointed or been elected to serve in any public office or governing board, such as a school board or police jury?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

51. Have you ever given a gift to a public official or contributed money or made a loan to a political candidate or campaign?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

52. Have you ever worked in the field of politics or donated your time to work on the campaign of a political candidate?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

[*617] 53. How closely would [**83] you say you follow Louisiana state politics?

Follow very closely

Follow somewhat closely

Follow rarely

Do not follow at all

54. What is your religion?

No preference

Baptist

Protestant

Catholic

Jewish

Other:

55. Approximately how often do you attend church or religious services?

Never

Rarely

Several times a year

Once a month

Several times a month

Once a week

Several times a week

56. Is there anything in your religion or personal beliefs which would prevent you from sitting as a juror, in judgment of the guilt or innocence of another person, or following the law given to you by the Court?

Yes No

Gambling

57. How do you feel generally about legalized gambling in Louisiana?

Approve

Disapprove

No opinion

58. Does your church or religious organization have a position on gambling?

Yes, it is against gambling.

Yes, it is **not** against gambling.

No, [**84] my church has no opinion on gambling.

Don't know.

Not applicable.

IF YES, do you agree with your church's position?

Yes No

59. Do you have any moral or personal opposition to legalized gambling?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

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60. Do or did you support the campaign to reform or repeal the state gaming laws?

Yes No

61. Are you specifically opposed to any of the following:

Riverboat gambling

Yes No

Casino gambling

Yes No

Video poker

Yes No

62. Have you or has anyone close to you ever had an interest in or investment with any companies or person involved in the ownership of gaming operations?

Yes No

[*618] **IF YES**, please describe:

63. Do you know anyone who has had any contact with the Louisiana State Police Riverboat Gaming Division?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

64. Do you know anyone who now works or has worked in the gaming industry?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain [**85] in what job(s), when, and where he/she is employed:

65. Have you read, seen, or heard any news reports regarding regulation of the gaming industry in Louisiana?

Yes No

IF YES, what have you read, seen, or heard?

66. Do you believe that the citizens of Louisiana should have more influence over how gambling is regulated in the state?

Agree strongly

Agree somewhat

Disagree somewhat

Disagree strongly

No opinion

67. Do you believe that a person who is connected with the gaming industry is more likely to violate the law than one who is not connected with the legalized gambling industry?

Agree strongly

Agree somewhat

Disagree somewhat

Disagree strongly

No opinion

68. Do you believe that the gaming industry is necessary to Louisiana's economy?

Agree strongly

Agree somewhat

Disagree somewhat

Disagree strongly

No opinion

69. Do you believe there has been corruption in the awarding of Louisiana riverboat gaming licenses?

Agree strongly

[**86] Agree somewhat

Disagree somewhat

Disagree strongly

No opinion

70. Do you believe former Governor Edwards is responsible for previous or current problems in the state's gaming industry?

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Agree strongly

Disagree somewhat

Agree somewhat

Disagree strongly

Disagree somewhat

No opinion

Disagree strongly

Jury Service/Experience and Opinions about the Court System

No opinion

72. Have you ever served on a jury?

[*619] 71. Do you believe that anyone who deals in large sums of cash is probably engaged in criminal activity?

Yes No

Agree strongly

IF YES, please complete the following for each case on which you served:

Agree somewhat

Civil or Criminal	Charges or Allegations	When	Where	Was a verdict reached? If no, why not?	Verdict	Were you the Foreperson?

73. Do you believe everyone should be treated equally under the law?

IF YES, please describe:

[**87] Agree strongly

76. Have you ever testified as a witness in a trial?

Agree somewhat

Yes No

Disagree somewhat

Please explain:

Disagree strongly

77. Have you or has a family member ever been involved in a lawsuit or legal action of any kind?

74. Do you believe the police are very thorough and accurate in their usual investigations?

Yes No

Agree strongly

Please explain:

Agree somewhat

[ILLEGIBLE SLIP OP. PAGE 19]

Disagree somewhat

[*620] 82. Do you know anyone who agreed to cooperate with the prosecution in a criminal case in order to get a reduced sentence or immunity?

Disagree strongly

Yes No

75. Have you or your family been the victim of wrongdoing by others (whether or not criminal charges were filed)?

IF YES, please explain:

Yes No

83. Some of the government's witnesses in this case are testifying as part of plea bargaining agreements or under a grant of immunity from prosecution. What is

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[**88] your opinion about the use of plea agreements or granting immunity for this purpose?

- Approve
- Disapprove
- No opinion

Please explain your answer:

84. What is your opinion regarding law enforcement's use of Court authorized telephone wire taps in conducting an investigation?

- Approve
- Disapprove
- No opinion

Please explain your answer:

85. What is your opinion regarding law enforcement's use of informants in gathering information relating to possible criminal violations of the law?

- Approve
- Disapprove
- No opinion

Please explain your answer:

Connections with Parties to this Case

86. Do you or does anyone close to you know or have any connection with any of the prosecutors in the case: Eddie Jordan, Jr., Jim Letten, Michael Magner, Peter Strasser, Fred Harper, or Todd Greenberg?

Yes No

IF YES, what is the connection and whom is it between?

87. Have you or has anyone close to you had any contact with Judge Polozola or his staff?

[*621] Yes No

IF YES, please explain: [**89]

88. Do you know anyone who is or was associated with any of the United States Attorney's offices in Louisiana, the U.S. Department of Justice, or the F.B.I.?

Yes No

IF YES, what was the association and what is your relationship?

89. Do you or does anyone close to you know of or have any connection with any of the following defense lawyers: Dan Small, Jim Cole, Pat Fanning, Sonny Garcia, Mary Olive Pierson, Hillar Moore, Rebecca Hudsmith, Craig Smith, William Jeffress, James Heavner, Ernest Johnson?

Yes No

IF YES, what is the connection and whom is it between?

90. Do you or does anyone close to you know or have any connection with any of the defendants in this case: former Governor Edwin Edwards, Stephen Edwards, Cecil Brown, Senator Greg Tarver, Andrew Martin, Bobby Johnson or Ecotry Fuller?

Yes No

IF YES, what is the connection and whom is it between?

91. Former Governor Edwin Edwards was previously tried and found not guilty of federal charges in 1986 in a separate case. Would your opinion of the verdict (in the prior case) make [**90] it difficult for you to sit as a fair and impartial juror in this case?

Yes No Not sure

IF YES OR NOT SURE, please explain:

92. Would your current opinion about former Governor Edwards make it difficult for you to be a fair and impartial juror in this case?

Yes No Not sure

93. Do you think former state officials (no longer in office) should be allowed to provide services to companies doing business with, or regulated by, the state?

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Yes No

94. Do you think that a **current** state official's family members should be allowed to provide services to companies doing business with or regulated by the state?

Yes No

Media

95. Do you read a daily newspaper?

Yes No

Which one(s)?

96. What other magazines and newspapers do you read on a regular basis?

97. What radio and television programs do you enjoy?

TV:

Radio:

98. Have you followed news accounts of any trials in the news?

Yes No

[*622] IF YES, please explain:

99. [**91] Do you or have you ever had a bumper sticker on your car?

Yes No

IF YES, what does or did it say?

Pretrial Publicity

Because this case has received publicity, you have probably seen, read, or heard something about this case either in the media or from friends, relatives, or co-workers. It is important that you carefully and completely answer the following questions concerning what you have learned about the case. There are no right or wrong answers. Please be as candid as possible.

100. a. Briefly tell what information you have read, seen, or heard about the case, the defendants, or their attorneys:

b. What have you read, seen, or heard about the government's investigation, the federal prosecutors, or government witnesses?

101. From which source(s) have you heard, read, or seen anything about this case? (Check **any and all** that apply)

TV news

Radio

Newspapers

Magazines

Internet

Word of mouth

Other:

102. Approximately how many media (television, newspaper, magazine, and radio) reports in total have you [**92] seen, read, or heard about this case?

None

1 - 5

6 - 10

11 - 20

21 - 30

31 - 50

51 - 75

75 - 100

101 - 200

More than 200

103. Have you heard others express opinions about this case or about any of the defendants?

Yes No

IF YES, what opinions were expressed?

[*623] 104. Have you personally met or do you

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have any knowledge of anyone associated with this case?

Yes No

IF YES, please list who they are and how you know them:

105. Have you formed any opinion about the case or about any of the defendants?

Yes No

IF YES, (a) what is your opinion?

(b) would you be able to set aside your current opinion and base your verdict on the law and evidence in this case?

106. Every defendant is presumed innocent and cannot be convicted unless the jury, based solely on all the evidence in this case, unanimously decides that his guilt has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt. The burden of proving guilt rests entirely with the [*93] government. The defendants have no burden of proof at all. Would you have any difficulty following these rules?

Yes No

107. If, as a juror, you determine that the government has proven a defendant guilty of a charged offense beyond a reasonable doubt, would you be able to vote in favor of a guilty verdict?

Yes No

108. Conversely, if, as a juror, you believe that the government has failed to carry its burden of proving a defendant guilty of a charged offense beyond a reasonable doubt, would you be able to vote for a verdict of not guilty?

Yes No

109. Do you believe that a defendant in a criminal trial should be required to testify?

Agree

Disagree

IF AGREE: the judge will instruct you that:

a. a defendant in a criminal trial has no

obligation to testify;

b. jurors cannot draw any conclusion from the fact that a defendant chooses not to testify; and

c. that the fact that a defendant chooses not to testify cannot be a factor in reaching your verdict.

Would you have any problem following those instructions if a defendant chooses not to testify?

Yes [*94] No

IF YES, please explain:

110. Would you be more likely to believe a law enforcement officer or other government agent than any other witness?

Yes No Treat all the same

111. You as a juror must follow the law as given to you by the Judge whether you agree with it or not. Would you have any difficulty following this rule?

Yes No

112. The indictment in this case is an accusation and not evidence of guilt. Would you have any difficulty treating the indictment as an accusation and not as evidence of guilt?

Yes No

[*624] 113. There are seven defendants in this case. Each defendant and each charge must be considered separately. You cannot find a defendant guilty on any count unless the government has proven his guilt on that count beyond a reasonable doubt. You must not draw any conclusion from the fact that the defendants are on trial together, and you must not find one defendant guilty by reason of your finding another defendant guilty. Would you have difficulty following these rules?

Yes No

114. Do you know of any reason [*95] why you could not fairly and impartially decide in accordance with your oath and based solely on the law and evidence,

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whether the government has proved a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt?

Yes No

IF YES, what is the reason?

Conclusion

115. Is there any matter not covered by this questionnaire that you think the attorneys or court might want to know about when considering you as a juror in this case?

Yes No

Please explain:

116. Is there any matter not covered by this questionnaire that may affect your ability to reach a fair and impartial verdict?

Yes No

IF YES, please explain:

THE OXFORD EAGLE

Established 1867

2008 Rates

The Oxford EAGLE

Oxford Town

The LafaShopper News

Home Market Guide

www.oxfordeagle.com

www.oxfordtown.com

Published

Afternoons

5 Days A Week

Monday - Friday

No Publication on

New Year's Day,

Fourth of July,

Labor Day,

Day After Thanksgiving,

& Christmas Day

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 Don Whitten, Editor

Commission and Terms of Payment

All advertising rates are non-commissionable.

No cash discounts.

Advertising accounts are due by the 10th day of each month following statement. Any account not paid by the 25th day of the month following the date of the purchase(s) will be charged a service charge of 1 1/2 percent per month (an annual percentage rate of 18 percent), with a minimum charge of one dollar. Accounts must be kept on current status to earn contract rates. Failure to pay advertising account within 90 days makes contract subject to cancellation and the advertiser agrees to being rebilled at the open rate for all unpaid advertising. Credit will not be extended to past due accounts over 90 days. Political advertising and "Going Out Of Business" advertising is accepted only with payment in advance.

General Rate Policy

The Oxford EAGLE reserves the right to refuse any advertising which it deems objectionable, slanderous, misleading, or in poor taste.

Position- Every effort will be made to grant reasonable position requests, but this cannot be guaranteed at regular rates. Guaranteed page placement is available for a charge of 25 percent of the cost of the ad on a first-come basis.

Proofs- Proofs for ads which are 3 1/2" or larger will

be furnished upon request. Proofs are submitted for the correction of errors only, not for any revisions in copy. Proofs of smaller ads may be seen at our office by the advertiser. All proofed ads must be back in the office the day before publication. The Oxford EAGLE is not liable for errors in advertisements proofed by the advertiser. The Oxford EAGLE is not liable for advertisements placed on a no-proof basis and for advertisements received by phone. The Oxford EAGLE is not responsible for errors after the first publication of a repeat ad. The Oxford EAGLE will be responsible for reprinting that portion of an advertisement which is in error, and not the entire advertisement.

The Oxford EAGLE will accept alcoholic beverage, tobacco and gaming advertising.

Ad proofs for advertiser use of corrections may not be used by other publications without Oxford EAGLE permission.

Special Services

Sales representatives are eager to assist advertisers in designing advertisements and developing an advertising campaign. The graphics department is equipped with the latest computer equipment to design effective advertisements for the advertiser. Let our award-winning team design the perfect advertisement for you today.

Ad Copies - A fee of \$20 pdf /\$35 for separated pdfs will be charged to the newspaper or business requesting the advertisement. Ads will be e-mailed only after they have been approved by the advertiser and only if they run in our publication first or on the same day. We will not create ads that do not run in our publication.

Ads published in the Oxford EAGLE may not be used in other publications without permission of the Oxford EAGLE.

ROP Requirements

Standard Page: Minimum display advertisement acceptable, one column by one inch. Advertisements over 19 inches deep will be charged the full column depth of 21 inches.

Double-Page Ads - On all double truck ads the "gutter" column will be charged as one/half column (10 1/2 inches) of advertising.

Contract and Copy Regulations

Contract Regulations -

Advertisers receiving contract rates must have a signed contract. Accounts must be kept on current status to earn contract rates. Contracts cover only the advertiser signing the agreement. If an advertiser uses more than they have agreed upon, the advertiser will be entitled to the benefit of the rate applicable of the space used as shown on the rate card. If the full amount is not used, the advertiser will pay the difference between the contract rate and the amount actually used.

Copy Regulations -

All copy deadlines are the same as space reservation deadlines. General policies are the same as copy regulations.

Special Classification Rates

Political rates \$9.25 per column inch

All political advertising is payable in advance.

Legal rates - Rates are set by the state and are available upon request.

MCAN - Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

MDAN - Mississippi Display Advertising Network

Deliver your message to more than 2,347,070

homes throughout the state in 104 newspapers.

Contact your sales representative for rates.

The Oxford EAGLE

Established 1867

ROP Open Rate - \$9.25

The Oxford EAGLE Contract Rates

up to 250 inches.....	\$9.25
250 to 499 inches.....	\$8.95
500 to 999 inches.....	\$8.40
1,000 to 1,999 inches.....	\$8.05
2,000 to 2,999 inches.....	\$7.65
3,000 to 4,999 inches.....	\$7.20
5,000 to 7,999 inches.....	\$6.65

Color Rates

Spot color per page.....	\$80.00
Two color per page.....	\$160.00
Full color per page.....	\$240.00

Deadlines

ROP and Classified Display

Publication Date	Deadline
Monday	3 p.m. Thursday
Tuesday.....	3 p.m. Friday
Wednesday.....	3 p.m. Monday
Thursday.....	3 p.m. Tuesday
Friday.....	3 p.m. Wednesday

Cancellation of an ad after deadline results in a charge of 25 percent of the cost of the ad.

Classified

Classified line advertising is noon the day prior to insertion date.

Inserts

Noon three days prior to insertion.

Mechanical Measurements

The Oxford EAGLE	
6 column format - SAU unit	
Standard page.....	6 column by 21 inches
Column inches per page.....	126
One column.....	1.992
Two columns.....	4.187
Three columns.....	6.381
Four columns.....	8.576
Five columns.....	10.77
Six columns.....	12.961

Classified- 8 column format

One column.....	1.5
Two columns.....	3.167
Three columns.....	4.833

Four columns.....	6.5
Five columns.....	8.15
Six columns.....	9.667
Seven columns.....	11.334
Eight columns.....	12.961

Classified Rates

Number of Days	Base Rate (<15 words)	Additional Per Word (> 15 words)
1	7.00	0.45
2	9.50	0.60
3	10.35	0.64
4	11.35	0.69
5	12.05	0.72
10	22.60	1.34
15	29.40	1.71
20	35.00	2.00

All Classified line ads also appear on our web site.

Classified Display Advertisement

\$7.35 per column inch

A service charge of \$5.00 is made for blind box ads

The LafaShopper News Established 1985

The LafaShopper is delivered to 15,200 homes, in Lafayette, Yalobusha, and Panola counties, reaching more individuals than any publication in the area.

Rates
 Open Rate - \$13.85
 Pick up Rate - \$4.60
 Deadlines

The advertising deadline is 3 p.m. Thursday.

Mechanical Measurements
 5 column tabloid
 Standard page.....5 column by 13 inches
 Column inches per page.....65
 Column width same as The Oxford Town.

The Oxford Town Established 1993

Alternative Weekly Entertainment Magazine
 Oxford Town is inserted in The Oxford EAGLE's Thursday edition, and distributed on The University of Mississippi campus and other locations throughout Oxford. Over 7,500 copies are distributed each week.

Rates
 Open Rate - \$8.55
 Pick up Rate- \$4.80
 Contract Rates Available Upon Request
 Deadlines
 Advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.

Mechanical Measurements
 5 column tabloid
 One column.....1.833
 Two columns.....3.833
 Three columns.....5.833
 Four columns.....7.833
 Five columns.....9.833

Home Market Guide Established 1987

The Home Market Guide is the premier Oxford real estate magazine published the first Friday of every month. The magazine is printed on glossy paper in full color throughout.

Dimensions & Costs
 1/4 page- 3.63" x 4.88", \$70
 1/2 page- 3.63" x 9.75" or 7.25" x 4.88", \$135
 Inside Full- 7.25" x 9.75"
 \$250 each, 1-3 pages
 \$225 each, 4 or more pages

Covers
 Inside Covers- \$450 Back- \$475.00

Deadlines
 The advertising deadline is three Wednesdays prior to publication, unless specified in advance.

Cover deadlines one week prior to regular deadline. The inside front and back covers are reserved for realtors who are members of the NCMBR. The inside covers are reserved for realtors and affiliates who are members of the NCMBR.

Preprint

Preprint Rates - non-commissionable

Size	Cost
4 pg tab/single sheet.....	6.0 ¢ ea.
4 pg broadsheet/8 pg tab.....	6.5 ¢ ea.
6 pg broadsheet/12 pg tab.....	7.0 ¢ ea.
8 pg broadsheet/16 pg tab.....	7.5 ¢ ea.

(other sizes quoted on request)

Partial Distribution: For less than total circulation \$65.00 per thousand up to and including 4 page tabloid.
 Fold Requirements: Quarter fold.
 Delivery Requirements: Request inserts in boxes.

Request delivery times:
 M - F, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 Odd sizes: An extra handling charge will be imposed for inserts which are delivered unfolded; folding charge is 2¢ each piece
 Zoning: Not available

Business Builders

Blitz Advertising* - Ad runs four times in the EAGLE and once in the LafaShopper for the combo price :

2 columns x 2"	\$148
2 columns x 4"	\$295
3 columns x 4" / (2x6)	\$440
3 columns x 9"	\$995

Multiple Run Discount
 • Run any ad 12" or larger a second time in the EAGLE within 5 print days and receive a 15% Discount.

For added value with both the Blitz Advertising and the Multiple Run Discount, you may also pickup the same ad within five print days in The LafaShopper News or Oxford Town at the reduced pickup rate

* Only available for these sizes and must be used within a four-week time period.

The Oxford EAGLE Online Edition

Rates

- Top Banner ads are available for \$295 per month, side tower ads for \$150.
- Pick-up any EAGLE or Oxford Town ad within five print days for only an additional \$10 per week online.

• All classified line listings in our paper will also appear online.

Special Sections

The Oxford EAGLE publishes special theme sections to benefit advertisers throughout the year. Some of the most popular special sections include Bridal, Graduation, Apartment Guide, Tax Tips, Women in Business, Welcome Back Rebels, Game Day Previews, Holiday Gift Guide and Season's Greetings.

Contact your sales representative for information on sections.

The Oxford EAGLE

P.O. Box 866 • 916 Jackson Avenue
 Oxford, Mississippi 38655
 Phone: 662-234-4331
 Fax: 662-234-4351

\$9.25 per column inchThe Oxford EAGLE
 \$13.85 per column inch.....The LafaShopper News
 \$4.60 per column inch..... The LafaShopper News pick up rate
 \$8.55 per column inch.....Oxford Town
 \$4.80 per column inch.....Oxford Town pick up rate
 \$7.35 per column inch.....Classified Display

Size	Oxford EAGLE	LafaShopper	LafaShopper Pick-up	Town	Town Pick-up	Classified
2x2	37.00	55.40	18.40	34.20	19.20	29.40
2x3	55.50	83.10	27.60	51.30	28.80	44.10
2x4	74.00	110.80	36.80	68.40	38.40	58.80
2x5	92.50	138.50	46.00	85.50	48.00	73.50
2x6	111.00	166.20	55.20	102.60	57.60	88.20
2x7	129.50	193.90	64.40	119.70	67.20	102.90
2x8	148.00	221.60	73.60	136.80	76.80	117.60
2x9	166.50	249.30	82.80	153.90	86.40	132.30
2x10	185.00	277.00	92.00	171.00	96.00	147.00
3x3	83.25	124.65	41.40	76.95	43.20	66.15
3x4	111.00	166.20	55.20	102.60	57.60	88.20
3x5	138.75	207.75	69.00	128.25	72.00	110.25
3x6	166.50	249.30	82.80	153.90	86.40	132.30
3x7	194.25	290.85	96.60	179.55	100.80	154.35
3x5.25 (1/8 OE)	145.69	218.14	72.45	134.67	75.60	115.77
3x10.5 (1/4 OE)	291.38	436.28	144.90	269.33	151.20	231.53
6x10.5 (1/2 OE)	582.75					
6x21 (full OE)	1165.50					
5x13 (full OT or LS)	601.25	900.25	299.00	555.75	312.00	477.75
5x6.5 (1/2 OT or LS)	300.63	450.13	149.50	277.88	156.00	238.88

One color charge.....\$80.00
 Two color charge.....\$160.00
 Process color.....\$240.00

DEADLINES:
 The Oxford EAGLE.....3 pm two days prior to insertion date
 The LafaShopper News.....3 pm Thursday
 The Oxford Town.....5 pm Monday

Pick-up rate available for one insertion in The Lafashopper News or Oxford Town after running an advertisement in The Oxford EAGLE at regular price.
 Prices effective January 1, 2008

Circulation & Subscription

Circulation		By Carrier		Senior Citizen Discount for 65 or older - 10 percent.
The Oxford EAGLE	6,000	Three Months	\$22.50	
The LafaShopper News	15,200	Six Months	\$45.00	
The Oxford Town	7,500	One Year	\$85.00	
Home Market Guide	9,000			
		By Mail		
Subscription Rates		Three Months	\$36.00	
EAGLE Single copy price 50¢		Six Months	\$72.00	
		One Year	\$144.00	

Circulation- 234-2222

THE OXFORD EAGLE

Online Edition

Today's Eagle

News

2/11/08 - Deadline for filing motions in bribery case today

Home

[Alyssa Schnugg](#)
Staff Writer

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Archives

All pretrial motions must be filed by 5 this afternoon in the case against powerful trial lawyer Richard "Dickie" Scruggs and two other attorneys who faces charges for allegedly trying to bribe a circuit court judge.

Last month, U.S. District Court Senior Judge Neal B. Biggers Jr. granted a motion to continue the trial until March 31 and marked today as the final day for motions to be filed by defense attorneys.

Scruggs, his son and law partner, Zach Scruggs, and attorney Sidney Backstrom, were charged in November with attempting to bribe Circuit Court Judge Henry Lackey with more than \$40,000 during a civil lawsuit against Scruggs. Two other defendants, Timothy Balducci and Stephen A. Patterson, have already pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

Interaction

Advertising

Letters to the Editor

Submit Classified Ad

Submit Announcements

Submit Calendar Item

Submit a Story Idea

Contact Information

Subscription Information

Meet the Staff

Any hearings related to the motions filed today must be heard by the court by Feb. 25.

Defense attorneys for Scruggs alluded to some of the motions they may be filing today in their request for continuance filed last month. It's expected that the defense attorneys will be filing a motion to suppress evidence, including recorded conversations via wire taps.

During the continuance hearing last month, Scruggs' attorney John Kecker claimed that the government purposely left out evidence that may have exonerated Scruggs in its attempt to extend an order for wire taps.

Defense attorneys claim prosecutors deliberately left out parts of the conversations from their request to continue the wire taps, including where Balducci "specifically distances Scruggs from the process" when he delivered \$20,000 in cash to Lackey on Sept. 27.

Around Oxford

City Government

Chamber of Commerce

Other anticipated motions may include:

— To dismiss the case based on "outrageous government conduct" based on the defense's claims the government left out exculpatory evidence from its affidavits for the wire tap extension.

- County Government** — To allow for separate trials for each defendant.
- Important Numbers** — Regarding the accuracy and reliability of the taped recordings.
- Community Calendar** — To dismiss counts 2, 3 and 4 of the indictment, claiming there is significant legal questions whether attempted bribery of a state court judge can exist due to the lack of federal funds involved.
- Yoknapatawpha Arts Council** — Conspiracy issues, related to whether statements by co-conspirators are admissible in court.
- University of Mississippi** — Regarding jury selection due to the case’s publicity.
- Oxford School District**
- Lafayette School District**
- Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology**

WOXD 95.5 (FM)

WQLJ 93.7 (FM)

WUMS 92.1 (FM)

The Oxford Eagle
 916 Jackson Ave.
 Oxford, Miss. 38655
 Fax: (662) 234-4351
 Phone: (662) 234-4331

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THE OXFORD EAGLE

Online Edition

Today's Eagle

News

2/12/08 - Scruggs' attorneys accuse feds of creating crime

Home

[Alyssa Schnugg](#)

Staff Writer

News

Defense attorneys for three lawyers charged with bribing a judge accused the government of omitting specific evidence that proves their clients' innocence, according to documents filed Monday afternoon.

Sports

Opinions/ Editorials

Classifieds

"The affidavits omit numerous specific facts known to the government which show that no such conspiracy existed and that, in fact, it was the government that created the alleged crime here," states a motion to suppress filed by the attorneys representing Scruggs, his son, Zach Scruggs, and attorney Sidney Backstrom.

Purchase Photos

Archives

Interaction

The trio was charged in November with attempting to bribe Circuit Judge Henry Lackey with \$40,000 for a favorable ruling in a lawsuit against the senior Scruggs and his firm.

Advertising

Letters to the Editor

Another two men, Timothy Balducci and Stephen A. Patterson, were also indicted, but they have pleaded guilty and are assisting the government in its case against the others. They are awaiting their sentencing hearing.

Submit Classified Ad

Submit Announcements

The defense attorneys filed eight motions late Monday that included a motion to dismiss, motion to suppress evidence, motion to sever trials and a motion to change venue.

Submit Calendar Item

Submit a Story Idea

Monday was the deadline to file pre-trial motions for the March 31 trial date, scheduled by U.S. District Senior Judge Neal Biggers Jr. last month.

Contact Information

Subscription Information

Meet the Staff

The motion to dismiss says the government pursued Balducci to the point of manufacturing a crime in its attempt to "paint a dark picture of conspiracy," involving the five defendants. It alleges the government engaged in a pattern of concealing the excessive government involvement in the alleged bribe along with exculpatory evidence in order to be granted permission to use wiretaps and search warrants. The defense included transcripts of the recorded conversations as evidence for its motions.

Around Oxford

City Government

Chamber of Commerce

County Government

"If this is not ... Mr. Scruggs' money, I don't want a nickel of it," Lackey told Balducci on Sept. 27.

Important Numbers

"I want you to know ... this is between me and you, and just

Community Calendar

between me and you ... this is just between me and you ... there ain't another soul in the world that knows about this ...," Balducci replied.

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council

"I would think Mr. Scruggs would have to know something," Lackey said.

University of Mississippi

Balducci responded that it was not going to work like that and all Scruggs would know is that "I solved a problem for him."

Oxford School District

Lafayette School District

Defense attorneys claim that leaving similar conversations and comments out of the government's application for the wire taps and search warrants was misleading and "outrageous conduct."

Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology

Zach Scruggs and Backstrom also filed motions to sever their trials from each other and from the senior Scruggs, claiming their roles in the "alleged conspiracy" are minimal.

WOXD 95.5 (FM)

WQLJ 93.7 (FM)

"If the alleged conspiracy were a movie, Zach Scruggs's character might not even have a name, or, more likely, would have been cut from the final script," his lawyer, Todd P. Graves, wrote.

WUMS 92.1 (FM)

One of the last motions to be filed last week was a request by the defendants to move the trial out of Mississippi due to the "extraordinary pretrial publicity of this case in the Northern District of Mississippi and throughout the state of Mississippi."

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Biggers has not ruled on any of the motions and hearings are expected to be scheduled and heard by Feb. 25.

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THE OXFORD EAGLE

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2/20/08 - Judge may rule today on motions in Scruggs case

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Staff Writer

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Attorney Timothy Balducci told a federal court this morning that it was the junior Scruggs who first suggested Balducci's using his relationship with a local judge to "corruptly influence" him into ruling in favor of Richard "Dickie" Scruggs in a lawsuit against him.

That new information came out at a hearing which began this morning at the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Oxford, where a judge may rule today on several motions filed by defense attorneys for three local attorneys.

Scruggs, his son Zach and associate Sydney Backstrom are all charged with trying to bribe Circuit Court Judge Henry Lackey in an attempt to influence the outcome of a civil lawsuit filed against Scruggs last year.

Interaction

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Balducci and former state auditor Steve Patterson were also charged, but both have pleaded guilty and are working with the government in its cases against the other three men.

Letters to the Editor

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In this morning's hearing, Balducci was called to the stand after defense attorney John Kecker, representing Scruggs, asked the judge to allow Balducci to be questioned in relation to a motion to dismiss. The motion, filed by Kecker last week, claims the government acted "outrageously" and even caused the crime that Scruggs and the others are charged with.

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In testimony, Balducci told the court that he looked up to Lackey and considered him his "mentor."

Contact Information

Subscription Information

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Norman asked Balducci if he was asked anything specific during a meeting in March among all five men charged with the bribe attempt.

Meet the Staff

"I was asked to utilize my personal relationship to corruptly influence (Lackey) for a favorable ruling," Balducci replied.

Around Oxford

City Government

Norman asked him who brought it up first.

Chamber of Commerce

"Originally, it was Zach Scruggs who brought up my relationship with Lackey, which was generally known," Balducci said. "He asked me to go and have an off-the-record conversation and see if

County Government

I could persuade him into a favorable ruling.”

Important Numbers

Weighing motions

Community Calendar

Today’s hearing began at 9 this morning in front of U.S. District Senior Judge Neal B. Biggers Jr. It broke for a 10-minute recess at 10 a.m. and is expected to last most of the day.

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council

University of Mississippi

Last week, defense attorneys filed several motions including a motion to dismiss the charges against the three men, claiming the government behaved badly by leaving out exculpatory evidence from its affidavits for wire tapping.

Oxford School District

Lafayette School District

The government released several transcripts of those conversations Tuesday along with its responses to the defense attorneys’ motions.

Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology

Included in those transcripts is a conversation between Balducci and Backstrom:

WOXD 95.5 (FM)

Balducci: “You know it’ll take some more money, is the other side ...”

WQLJ 93.7 (FM)

WUMS 92.1 (FM)

Backstrom: “mm-hmm.”

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Balducci: “ ... you know, I mean, we’ve given him 50 to, to get us to where we are now, but you know, for a little bit more, you know, he’s willing to play ball I think and get this thing like we want it, so”

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Backstrom: “Mmm.”

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In another taped conversation between Scruggs and Balducci, Balducci tells Scruggs that Lackey may need a little “more.”

Balducci: “I think that you would do a little something else, you know, about ten or so more? ... Because I’ve already, you know, taken care of everything and I’m just ...”

Scruggs: “Uh, I’ll take care of it ...”

The three men are set for trial on March 31.

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2/21/08 - Judge denies motion to dismiss charges

[Alyssa Schnugg](#)

Staff Writer

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A federal judge denied a motion Wednesday to dismiss the charges against three local attorneys charged with attempting to bribe a circuit court judge for a favorable ruling in a civil lawsuit.

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U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. denied the motion filed by attorneys representing Richard "Dickie" Scruggs, his son, Zach, and attorney Sydney Backstrom. It claimed the indictments should be dismissed because the government acted outrageously in its attempt to "create the crime" the three men were charged with in November by leaving out exculpatory evidence from wire tap affidavits and pursuing the defendants "aggressively."

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Scruggs, his son and Backstrom are all charged with trying to bribe Circuit Court Judge Henry Lackey in an attempt to influence the outcome of a civil lawsuit filed against Scruggs last year.

Archives

Interaction

Two other men, Timothy Balducci and his associate Steve Patterson, were also charged but have since pleaded guilty and are working with the government in its case against the other three.

Advertising

Defense attorneys filed several motions last week, including the motion to dismiss. Hearings on those motions continued today at the Federal Courthouse in Oxford.

Letters to the Editor

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In denying the motion, Biggers said, according to state law, to have a motion dismissed on the grounds of government misconduct, it must be shown that the defendants only played a passive role in the alleged crime and that they wouldn't have committed the crime if the government hadn't acted.

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Biggers said that even though the government played an active role, it does not "wipe out that there was an active participation in this crime" by the defendants.

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Attorney John Keker, representing the elder Scruggs, spoke for all three defendants during the all-day hearing Wednesday. Keker asked Biggers to allow testimony from Balducci, Lackey and FBI agent William Delaney to prove the crime "was instigated through the government."

Subscription Information

Balducci takes stand

Meet the Staff

Biggers allowed Balducci to take the stand, and he was questioned by Keker and Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Norman for more than an hour.



While on the stand, Balducci described Lackey as a long-time friend and mentor.

City Government

“He was someone I really looked up to,” Balducci told the court.

Chamber of Commerce

Balducci testified that during a meeting in March between all five men, talk of corruptly influencing the judge was first mentioned by Zach Scruggs, who asked Balducci to use his personal relationship with the judge to try to influence him for a favorable ruling in the lawsuit, Jones vs. Scruggs. The lawsuit was filed as part of a dispute over \$26 million in legal fees from a settlement of Hurricane Katrina insurance lawsuits.

County Government

Important Numbers

At the time, Balducci said, while the comments may have been “unethical,” he didn’t consider what he was going to do “illegal” at the time.

Community Calendar

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council

“I knew I risking my law degree,” he said.

Balducci said no discussion of money was made at that meeting.

University of Mississippi

Balducci contacted Lackey and asked to meet with him. After exchanging pleasantries, Balducci told Lackey that he would consider it a personal favor if Lackey would side with Scruggs and send the case to arbitration. At the end of the conversation, Balducci said he told Lackey he would consider it an honor if Lackey would join his new law firm in an “of counsel” position after he retired.

Oxford School District

Lafayette School District

“I did not intend that as a bribe,” Balducci said. “In retrospect, I can see how he may have interpreted it that way.”

Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology

WOXD 95.5 (FM)

Lackey contacted the government about two weeks after the meeting, apparently unsure of Balducci’s intention but suspicious enough to alert authorities. Lackey withheld ruling on the arbitration motion for almost six months. In September, during another conversation with Balducci, Lackey said he was having financial problems and wanted \$40,000 for his ruling for arbitration. Balducci told Lackey he was sure that could be arranged.

WQLJ 93.7 (FM)

WUMS 92.1 (FM)

Another judge bribed?

Norman asked Balducci if there was something that led him to believe he would be able to secure the \$40,000 from Scruggs.

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Balducci: “I was privy to conversations on another matter when

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Scruggs bribed another judge to solve another matter.”

In cross examination by Keke, Balducci testified that Scruggs had tried to use former Sen. Trent Lott to influence rulings made by Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter in another dispute involving legal fees. DeLaughter has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged.

Keker: “Who was the judge?”

Balducci: “Judge DeLaughter”

Keker: “Who was he bribed by?”

Balducci: “Dickie Scruggs”

Keker: “How was he bribed?”

Balducci: “Scruggs offered the influence of his brother-in-law (Trent) Lott to put him on the list for consideration for a federal appointment.”

Keker accused the government of “hounding” Balducci throughout the summer, even after months went by with no “offers” made by Balducci.

Later in the day, Delaney took the stand during a hearing to suppress the evidence gathered from wiretaps and affidavits. Keke questioned why he left certain comments from the conversations — that Keke claims is exculpatory for his client — out of his affidavits for the wire taps. Delaney answered most of the questions by saying he simply felt the information wasn’t relative or that other information used in the affidavits was more pertinent to the case.

Biggers reserved ruling on the motion to suppress the evidence and asked each side to submit a list of the omitted and false statements so that he could see that if they were included in the affidavits originally. He asked both sides to prepare case law and arguments and submit them by Monday as well.

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2/22/08 - Trent Lott may be witness in Scruggs trial

[Alyssa Schnugg](#)

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Sen. Trent Lott could be called as a witness for both the defense and prosecution in the bribery case against Richard "Dickie" Scruggs and two other attorneys if a judge allows testimony from an unrelated case to be admitted during their trial.

U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. is considering a motion that would allow testimony about what a federal witness called a bribery attempt of Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter in an unrelated case.

It was the second time during a two-day hearing to deal with several motions that the former Republican senator's name was brought up in connection with Scruggs. Lott is Scruggs' brother-in-law.

Witness Timothy Balducci, who has pleaded guilty to a federal bribery charge and is cooperating with the prosecution, said Wednesday that Lott called DeLaughter on Scruggs' behalf.

Balducci claimed Lott told the judge that he would put him on the list of potential candidates for a federal judgeship if he made a favorable ruling in a case involving a dispute over legal fees.

Interaction

DeLaughter and Lott deny any wrongdoing and neither have been indicted on any criminal charges.

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Scruggs, his son and law partner, Zach, and attorney Sidney Backstrom are accused of trying to bribe another judge to get a favorable ruling in a dispute over \$26.5 million in legal fees from a mass settlement of Hurricane Katrina insurance lawsuits. Steve Patterson, who worked with Balducci, was also charged, but has also pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

A trial is set to begin March 31.

The prosecution would like to introduce the claim that the Scruggs Law Firm bribed DeLaughter to show the jury that the elder Scruggs had a history of trying to influence judges before he allegedly conspired to pay Circuit Judge Henry Lackey \$40,000 for a favorable ruling.

Contact Information Scruggs' attorney John Keker and Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Norman gave lists of whom they would call if Biggers allowed testimony about the alleged bribe to DeLaughter. Lott's name came up both times.

Subscription Information "And I believe his testimony would be short," Norman said.

Meet the Staff

Around Oxford

Norman also said he would call U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran to testify since Mississippi's congressional delegation likely came to a consensus on who to recommend.

City Government

Keker argued that testimony about the alleged bribe attempt should be excluded because there is nothing illegal about a lawyer suggesting a judge for a federal posting. He also noted that DeLaughter is a Democrat, making it unlikely that he would be appointed by a Republican administration even if Lott used his considerable influence for his cause.

Chamber of Commerce

County Government

Important Numbers

"If the government thinks this is a crime, they have a way to deal with it," Keker said. "They can bring a charge."

Community Calendar

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Dawson told the court the DeLaughter case "is under active investigation by the Public Integrity section at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., even as we speak."

University of Mississippi

In a follow-up interview, Dawson said Lott was not involved in the federal probe. He said he's aware of news reports that Lott is being investigated, but had no direct knowledge of any investigation of the former senator.

Oxford School District

Scruggs' former defense attorney, Joey Langston of Booneville, has pleaded guilty to trying to influence DeLaughter.

Lafayette School District

Close to home

Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology

In the afternoon, Biggers denied a motion by the defense to move the trial out of state due to mass media coverage of the case since the five men were indicted in late November.

WOXD 95.5 (FM)

"People in Mississippi and in this area are fascinated by this case," Keker said. "But those that don't live (in Mississippi) aren't. It would be easy to get a jury unaffected elsewhere."

WQLJ 93.7 (FM)

Admitting he had little hope for the motion's approval, Keker argued that due to the wide-spread "negative" coverage of the case, the defendants could not get a fair trial in Mississippi. Biggers asked Keker if he had any ideas where they should move the trial.

WUMS 92.1 (FM)

"New Orleans is nice," he said. "Nice hotels, a beautiful courthouse ... the people there need a distraction ... and there's

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good food.”

Dawson said just media coverage alone was not sufficient grounds to move the trial.

“The question is whether or not those who have been exposed (to media) can set aside that publicity and make their decision based on the law,” Dawson said.

Biggers denied the motion saying he had no way to judge how many people actually read newspapers and that just having a story in a newspaper doesn't mean people are influenced one way or another. He said he felt with proper questioning of the potential jurors — called voir dire — there should not be a problem finding a fair and unbiased jury in the Northern District of Mississippi.

“Just because someone has heard of the case, doesn't necessarily mean that's grounds to remove them from the jury pool,” Biggers said.

Biggers also listened to arguments by the attorneys of Zach Scruggs and Backstrom, who filed motions to have their cases severed from Dickie Scruggs, saying their clients' involvement in the case was minimal and that the amount of evidence the government has against Dickie Scruggs greatly outweighs the amount of evidence against Zach and Backstrom. The attorneys also argued it is unfair to their clients' chance of a fair trial if Biggers rules in favor of allowing the evidence in the case involving DeLaughter, since their clients were not involved with that case.

Biggers reserved ruling and said he would make a decision by Tuesday on the motion to sever as well as the motions to suppress wiretapping evidence and exclude testimony about the alleged bribery of DeLaughter.

(The Associated Press contributed to this story.)

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2/26/08 - Judge expected to rule on motions in bribery case

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[Alyssa Schnugg](#)

Staff Writer

News

A federal judge is expected to rule today on several motions in the judicial bribery case against three local attorneys, including trial lawyer Richard "Dickie" Scruggs.

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Last week, Senior Judge Neal Biggers Jr. reserved ruling on several motions in the government's case against Scruggs, his son, Zach, and Sydney Backstrom, who were all indicted in November for allegedly trying to bribe Circuit Court Judge Henry Lackey with \$40,000 for a favorable ruling in a civil suit against the elder Scruggs.

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The expected rulings include: whether he will allow evidence gathered from wire taps and searches; whether he will allow evidence to be presented from another unrelated open bribery case and whether Zach Scruggs and Sydney Backstrom should have separate trials from the senior Scruggs.

Interaction

Advertising

Biggers asked for some additional case law to submitted by the government and defense attorneys on Wednesday and announced Thursday at the end of the day that he would rule on all the outstanding motions by today.

Letters to the Editor

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Timothy Balducci and Stephen Patterson were also charged but have since pleaded guilty.

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Scruggs' former defense attorney Joey Langston pleaded guilty in December for trying to bribe Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter while working with Scruggs, which is the basis of the unrelated case that Biggers is expected to rule on today as to whether the evidence in that case can be used in the case against the Scruggses and Backstrom.

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Meet the Staff

Last week, the government requested that Balducci and Langston's sentencing dates be continued until the other defendants' trial is over. The trial is currently slated for March 31. U.S. District judge Mike Mills ruled to continue Langston's sentencing until further order of the court. There's been no ruling about Balducci's sentence as of Monday.

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2/27/08 - Criminal charges against Scruggs firm may affect outcome of pending civil lawsuit

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Circuit Court Judge William Coleman ruled Tuesday that the circuit court has the authority to hand down sanctions against Richard "Dickie" Scruggs and his codefendants in a civil lawsuit stemming from legal fees associated with Hurricane Katrina insurance-related litigation.

Scruggs and four other men have been indicted for attempting to bribe Circuit Court Judge Henry Lackey with \$40,000 for a favorable ruling in a lawsuit filed against them by Jackson firm Jones, Funderburg, Sessums, Peterson & Lee.

The suit was filed March 15, 2007, by Oxford attorney Grady F. Tollison Jr., representing the plaintiffs. In it, the firm claims Scruggs is withholding money the firm is owed for working on Hurricane Katrina insurance-related litigation.

The Jones firm claims it is entitled to 20 percent of all past attorney fees collected by the Scruggs Katrina Group, of which it was once a part before being "frozen out" by Scruggs and the other attorneys in the group who are also listed in suit — the Barrett Law Office, Nutt & McAlister and Lovelace law firms.

In Tuesday's hearing, Tollison argued that Scruggs' actions have damaged his client's case, but more importantly, "the honor and dignity of the profession."

He told Coleman that since this alleged crime happened in Lafayette County Circuit Court, that's where it should be handled and that the court should have jurisdiction to hand down sanctions as it sees fit.

Representing the Scruggs firm, Oxford attorney Cal Mayo of Mayo Mallette law firm argued that any sanctions should be considered after arbitration.

In the criminal case against Scruggs, prosecutors say the alleged bribe was offered to Lackey so he would send the case into arbitration.

In January, attorneys for Scruggs attempted to have the case, once

Community Calendar	again, sent into arbitration. Coleman ruled in February to send the case to arbitration, but only after he decided whether the circuit court had jurisdiction to sanction.
Yoknapatawpha Arts Council	
University of Mississippi	On Tuesday, he ruled to stay the order for arbitration and entertain an evidentiary hearing on a motion to strike by Jones' attorneys, to determine if Scruggs' actions were detrimental to the lawsuit.
Oxford School District	"To ignore the alleged misconduct, would allow a win-win result for the offender," Coleman said. "If the bribe results in a favorable ruling, the offender wins. If the court cannot strike the pleadings as a sanction, the offender wins again."
Lafayette School District	
Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology	No date was set for the hearing and both sides agreed no depositions would be taken before March 31, the date of the criminal trial.
WOXD 95.5 (FM)	Coleman also ruled that all of the members of the Scruggs Katrina Group could be liable for the acts of one if the acts were in furtherance of the joint venture.
WQLJ 93.7 (FM)	
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2/27/08 - Judge denies Scruggses' defense motions

Alyssa Schnugg
Staff Writer

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In what must be a disappointment for the defense attorneys for three men charged with bribing a judge, U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. denied several of their motions in one clean sweep Tuesday.

Last week, Biggers heard arguments on several motions in the judicial-bribery case against Richard "Dickie" Scruggs, his son, Zach Scruggs, and attorney Sydney Backstrom, who are accused of trying to bribe Circuit Court Judge Henry Lackey with \$40,000 for a favorable ruling in a dispute over \$26.5 million in legal fees.

Interaction

Biggers denied the defense's motion to keep the government from including evidence of alleged prior similar "bad acts" in the trial.

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Meet the Staff

The prosecution wanted to introduce the claim that the Scruggs Law Firm bribed Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter in an unrelated case, to show the jury that the elder Scruggs had a history of trying to influence judges.

Witness Timothy Balducci, who was also charged in the bribery attempt against Lackey, has pleaded guilty and is working with the government. In his testimony, Balducci said Scruggs used his influence to have his brother-in-law, U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, call DeLaughter and put him on the list of potential candidates for a federal judgeship if he made a favorable ruling on Scruggs' behalf.

Balducci's former partner, Steve Patterson, was also charged and has since pleaded guilty and is awaiting trial.

Around Oxford

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Chamber of Commerce

County Government

Attorneys on both sides announced last week that they may call Lott as a witness if Biggers allows the evidence. The government also said they may call Sen. Thad Cochran to testify since Mississippi's congressional delegation likely came to a consensus on whom to recommend.

Scruggs' former defense attorney, Joey Langston of Booneville, has pleaded guilty to trying to influence DeLaughter, but no other charges have been filed in that case. Both DeLaughter and Lott deny any wrong-doing.

Important Numbers

Attorneys for Zach Scruggs and Backstrom argued last week that if Biggers allowed the evidence to be presented, it would greatly prejudice their clients since they were not involved in the DeLaughter case.

Community Calendar**Yoknapatawpha Arts Council**

But in his ruling Tuesday, Biggers said the younger Scruggs is, in fact, implicated in the evidence, and while Backstrom was not, that was not enough reason to separate the trials. He denied both motions to sever the trials.

University of Mississippi**Oxford School District**

What is probably the biggest upset for the Scruggses and Backstrom defense teams, though, was the court's denial to suppress evidence gained from wire taps and searches — where the government got most of its evidence against the five men.

Lafayette School District**Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology**

The defense argued that the affidavits submitted by the government to gain the wiretaps and search warrants “omit several specific facts known to the government which show that no such conspiracy existed and that, in fact, it was the government that created the alleged crime.” Also omitted, the defense says, were recorded audio comments they say defeat the government's claim of conspiracy.

WOXD 95.5 (FM)**WQLJ 93.7 (FM)****WUMS 92.1 (FM)**

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Balducci testified last week that during a meeting in March 2007, Zach Scruggs asked Balducci to use his personal relationship with the judge to try to influence him for a favorable ruling in the lawsuit, Jones vs. Scruggs. The defense argued that FBI agent William Delaney's statement on the affidavits for the wiretaps that “Mr. Balducci made corrupt overtures to Judge Lackey” was false, since no mention of money was made.

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Biggers ruled Tuesday that while no money was mentioned, simply sending Balducci over to speak to Lackey about a case he was not involved with to “use his friendship to persuade Judge Lackey” amounts to an effort to corrupt a judge.

The defendants listed several examples of allegedly misleading statements or omissions, but Biggers ruled the court was satisfied that Delaney “adequately explained the bases for his various affidavits” and that even if the omitted statements were included in the affidavits, there was still “ample evidence to cause a reasonable person to believe that a crime has been committed.”

Last week, Biggers also denied a motion to move to trial out of Mississippi. Defense attorneys argued that pre-trial publicity would make it difficult to find an unbiased jury. Biggers said he felt with proper questioning of the potential jurors, there should not be a problem finding a fair and unbiased jury in the Northern District of Mississippi.

He also denied a motion by the defendants to dismiss the case, claiming the government had acted “outrageously” and even created the crime by pursuing Balducci.

The trial is set for March 31 at the Federal Courthouse in Oxford.

THE OXFORD EAGLE

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News

3/05/08 - DUI manslaughter case not immune to judicial bribery

[Alyssa Schnugg](#)

Staff Writer

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Katie South knew something wasn't right.

News

Her husband, Joe, has been dead for almost three years and the man charged with his death has still not gone to trial. She was promised the case would go to trial in November, only to face another disappointment when it was continued again.

Sports

"No one would give me any answers," she said Monday. "I've been fighting every day for three years. I'm emotionally and physically drained."

Opinions/ Editorials

Joe South was killed on Feb. 4, 2005, while driving to work at Dolco Packaging in Memphis, Tenn., from his home in Abbeville.

Classifieds

According to court records, South was traveling north on Highway 7 a mile north of Waterford when a car, driven by Darron Lee Minor, slammed into him. Minor was traveling south on Highway 7, but for unknown reasons, lost control of his vehicle and crossed over the center line into South's path, killing him.

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Obituaries

Minor, nephew to Northern District Transportation Commissioner Bill Minor, was charged with aggravated DUI in January 2006.

Archives

The Langston Law Firm of Booneville was hired by Minor's father for \$30,000 to defend him, according to court records. The attorney on the case, Timothy Balducci left the firm, led by attorney Joey Langston, shortly after and took the case with him.

Trials ahead

If the names of the attorneys sound familiar, both have made local and national headlines in the last few months after being indicted for attempting to bribe judges.

Interaction

Balducci was arrested in early November for his role in a scheme to bribe Circuit Judge Henry Lackey with \$40,000 for a favorable ruling in a lawsuit against attorney Richard "Dickie" Scruggs. He pleaded guilty on the day of his indictment and has worked with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office in their case against Scruggs, who was also indicted.

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Letters to the Editor	Scruggs' son, Zach, attorney Sydney Backstrom and former State Auditor Steve Patterson were also charged in the case. Patterson has also pleaded guilty to the charge and is awaiting trial. The Scruggses and Backstrom are set to go to trial on March 31 in Oxford.
Submit Classified Ad	
Submit Announcements	In December, Langston was indicted for bribing Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter in an unrelated case. He has pleaded guilty to the charge and is also awaiting sentence.
Submit Calendar Item	The investigation was sparked when Lackey was approached last March by Balducci, who asked Lackey to rule in Scruggs' favor during the civil lawsuit that involves \$26 million in legal fees over Hurricane Katrina litigation.
Submit a Story Idea	Lackey contacted the FBI, and for several months, Lackey's phone and office were tapped to try to gain evidence against Balducci and the others.
Contact Information	
Subscription Information	The taped conversations have recently been made public. The mass of recorded conversations covers months of telephone calls and personal visits between Balducci and Lackey. They are easily accessible on various Internet blogs and Web sites that have posted links to the transcripts.
Meet the Staff	<p>Seeking explanations</p> <p>It was within those transcripts that South found part of her answer as to why her husband's accused killer had not gone to trial in November.</p>
	
City Government	<p>“My niece is a stay-at-home mom with two small children so she spends a lot of time on the Internet,” South explained. “Last week, she called me up and told me she had something to show me but that I wouldn't like it.”</p>
Chamber of Commerce	South read over the section of transcripts her niece sent to her while she was on the phone with her.
County Government	<p>“It was like a dream,” South said. “My niece kept asking me if I was all right.”</p>
Important Numbers	The conversation was recorded on Nov. 1 — the day Balducci dropped off the final payment to Lackey and was later arrested by the FBI. During their conversation, Balducci brings up the case against Minor.
Community Calendar	Balducci: “This one, this one's kinda tailor made ... for, for, for this sort of deal.”
	He explains the relationship between Minor and his uncle.

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“Big politicos. Got money. You know? Been around for awhile ... Darron Minor, Bill’s nephew, is just a habitual (expletive). I mean just, there’s no other way to say it ... Just drugs, alcohol I mean just a ... been involved you know, never been arrested for felony, but has had just all kinds of damn DUIs and simple possession of marijuana ...

University of Mississippi

“Darron is involved in a vehicular manslaughter ... gets indicted for it ... Early one morning, bad, heavy fog, he’s going down the road and he crosses over the center line, hits a man head on and causes a collision. Then another car trailin’ ’em rams in from the rear and hits that car. OK? Man died. OK?”

Oxford School District

Lafayette School District

‘Illegal’ tests

Balducci goes on to describe how the Mississippi Highway Patrol officer working the wreck orders a blood test on Minor, but unfortunately, he ordered it under an old statute that was deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The test, according to Balducci, was positive for amphetamines and methamphetamine.

Oxford-Lafayette School
of Applied Technology

Balducci: “I mean, our guy’s tanked up. But the DA’s office has conceded that that’s an illegal test, OK, that they can’t use that as basis of his prosecution.”

WOXD 95.5 (FM)

Minor was apparently wounded in the wreck and while being treated at the hospital, was given a urine test that came back positive for methamphetamine. A year after the wreck, he was indicted.

WQLJ 93.7 (FM)

WUMS 92.1 (FM)

Balducci and Lackey discuss how the second test could be considered privileged since the urine was gathered while being cared for medically without permission and that Balducci plans to ask the court to dismiss the charge against Minor.

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He explains that Minor’s family paid Langston \$30,000 for his firm to represent Minor, but Balducci said that when he left the firm, the \$30,000 was not paid to him. He told Lackey he planned on going back to Minor’s family and asking for another \$20,000 since he never got paid by Langston.

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He offers Lackey \$10,000 to rule in his favor.

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Balducci: “I think I’ve got a good theory. I think I can get the legs cut out of this beforehand, gimme twenty grand to do it, and if he does, then I thought me and you could split it and we could, you know, we could get it taken care of.”

Debating delays

Lackey, knowing he’s being taped, agrees. Balducci asks Lackey to

continue the case for him in November.

Balducci: "We'd put it off 'til February and then I'll file a motion to quash in the meantime after I get paid."

The case was continued, but District Attorney Ben Creekmore said it wasn't because Lackey did what Balducci requested. In fact, it was Judge Andrew Howorth who continued the trial in November until March 27.

Since Balducci was arrested a few days after the conversation, Minor was without representation and a new lawyer had to be appointed. Attorney Casey Lott entered an appearance on Minor's behalf but quickly pulled out. Attorney David Hill took over as defense attorney about two weeks ago, Creekmore said.

"We expect the defense to motion for another continuance, but we will vigorously oppose that," Creekmore said. "It's a shame this case has taken so long to come to trial."

Creekmore denied that the attempted bribery by Balducci caused any of the previous delays in Minor's trial.

"To say that the Scruggs case delayed this trial would be fair but only from the November trial date until the March date," Creekmore said. "But this story is about what Darron has done. And he's going to be tried on that."

But for South, she won't believe it until she sees it, she said.

"It's gone on too long. It's to the point of ridiculousness and Joe's still dead," she said, her voice breaking with emotion.

"The longer it's put off, the less people remember. I've got to fight and no one will listen. It's been three years of torment. It's not just the fact your husband was killed for no reason, it's that everyone fighting me every step of the way to bring him justice."

Minor's trial is set to begin March 27 in Holly Springs.

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BY JERRY MITCHELL • JMITCHELL@JACKSON.GANNETT.COM • FEBRUARY 21, 2008

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newtrick wrote:

humpty, I was just playing with your "name" :)

2/22/2008 12:02:11 PM

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humptydumpty wrote:

Newtrick, you're right...FOLO changed their information - I hadn't seen the correction until now. My apologies. Though, I'm still interested in other times I've "fallen off the wall".

2/22/2008 2:01:30 AM

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humptydumpty wrote:

Newtrick - give me some examples of times I've "fallen of the wall". Re the motions...I copied/pasted that straight from FOLO before I left the office...so I won't dispute that if you have the info. Koolaid...I'm glad you're back. Please, give us some opinions re what happened yesterday/today w/ Scruggs...I'm interested in your point of view.

2/22/2008 1:55:40 AM

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BaronLee wrote:

I recently sat on a jury. Honestly, we looked at the evidence and not what we had heard or read. I believe that the court in Oxford can select a jury in this case that will look at what is presented on the witness stand and put aside what the individual members have heard or read. Members still have to look at themselves in the mirror once they have rendered their verdict.

2/22/2008 12:57:35 AM

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TRUTHOUTLET wrote:

He has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

2/21/2008 10:39:02 PM

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TRUTHOUTLET wrote:

I am glad that something is being done about people like Scruggs who think that money can buy a victory. He moved to Oxford, Ms. and has tried to run everything from the football team to the university while maintaining a law practice. The worse thing he has doing is getting his own son involved in this terrible situation which could cause this young man several years in the pen.. I admire Judge Biggers who will up hold the letter of the law and insure a fair and balanced trial.

2/21/2008 10:37:42 PM

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speakerofthetruth wrote:

May Dickie Scruggs be mounted by a rabid dog!!!!

2/21/2008 8:58:33 PM

[Recommend \(3\)](#)

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Franklin wrote:

MITCHELL--ESE Jerry Mitchell can sure take a perfectly fascinating story and just sap the life right out of it ---techniques include : 1) confusing chronolgy; 2) facts entering and exiting like ghosts in a haunted house; 3) lack of story-stelling ; 4) no topic sentences or overall context; 5) Mundane verb choice; 6) tired journalistic cliches ----- and he wins awards for this stuff , amazing.

2/21/2008 8:56:59 PM

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WhiteTrash wrote:

I say we waterboard 'em and get to the bottom of this.

2/21/2008 8:55:13 PM

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JanetbGood wrote:

All my Trent Lott posts are Folo today have been expoided as complete BS! I'll cover by ripping Jerry Mitchell's writing style again. Yeah, that's the ticket. Latah.

2/21/2008 7:47:49 PM

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Scruggs' attorney, John Keker of San Francisco, has said his client is innocent and that Scruggs "didn't corruptly influence Judge DeLaughter."

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newtrick wrote:

humpty, you fell off the wall - not that it's your first time to be "off the wall" - the Judge took the Motions to Sever under advisement.

2/21/2008 6:49:51 PM

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JamesSavik wrote:

Since Jim Hood took office, he hasn't missed a single opportunity to grandstand until Scruggs got caught with his hand in the cookie jar. Since when has a politically partisan and aggressive AG been satisfied letting the Feds handle a high profile public corruption case that he could easily ride to higher office? It just doesn't happen. Hood's silence in this matter speaks volumes.

2/21/2008 6:41:48 PM

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RUs25601 wrote:

So who out there hasn't figured out that when Lott recommended another judge, he had been tipped off by the Bush administration about the investigation of

Scruggs? Good grief, the feds investigation of judicial bribery in Mississippi began in 2001, when Scruggs first came into focus for his gifts of payoff of loans for Mississippi justice Oliver Diaz. Guess Scruggs felt pretty secure about his power to get so stupid with it.

2/21/2008 6:37:01 PM

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snowflake1 wrote:

EXCUSE ME GUYS--- I meant COMPLETELY OUT OF CIRCULATION.

2/21/2008 6:27:49 PM

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snowflake1 wrote:

I totally agree with GOAHEADFRED. He is so right, the state will always be last (50th) in everything until ALL the good ole boys are completed out.

2/21/2008 6:26:45 PM

[Recommend \(3\)](#)

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moslander wrote:

Trent Lott went to Congress poor and retired RICH...he is, in my view an arrogant bastand with a processed hair cut.....

2/21/2008 6:23:33 PM

[Recommend \(4\)](#)

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koolaid wrote:

Yawn yawn yawn, the Fed's are investigating EVERYTHING except why everything from China is KILLING us and WHERE to find Bin-Laden!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2/21/2008 5:56:27 PM

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madres wrote:

What ever happened to innocent until proven guilty? The media and public have convicted these men already, without having heard their side of the story. I seriously doubt they will get a fair trial in this state. It is a shame.

2/21/2008 5:03:54 PM

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goaheadfred wrote:

As George Costanza once said and I paraphrase: this thing is like an onion, the more layers you peel off the worse it stinks. Whether you're talking about politicians or lawyers, the good 'ole boy system has completely ruined this state. We will never elevate out of 50th place until we round up all these good 'ole boys and run them clear out of the state.

2/21/2008 4:58:24 PM

[Recommend \(4\)](#)

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humptydumpty wrote:

The motions for a change of venue and to sever as to Zach Scruggs and Sidney Backstrom were denied.

2/21/2008 4:50:46 PM

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humptydumpty wrote:

I'm starting to feel like an "ignorant yahoo" without the masterful guidance of Koolaid...his sheer genius and flawless insight need to be expressed on this canvass so that we too can see through the facts and pay our respects to Dickie Dick and The Funky Bunch in a respectful and unbiased fashion. Koolaid...whereyat?

2/21/2008 4:45:47 PM

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kwestjr@yahoo.com wrote:

ANYONE can suggest a candidate for a Senator to consider for a nomination. That is your right as an American. The fact that all of this has a side show attached is irrelevant.

2/21/2008 4:43:08 PM

[Recommend \(2\)](#)

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speakerofthetruth wrote:

Maybe it can be called "All My Criminals"

2/21/2008 4:31:51 PM

[Recommend \(2\)](#)

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Gunslinger6 wrote:

As the stomach turns, so do the days of our lives and the politics in Mississippi. DeLaughter does look like Sutherland. The more they stir the more it stinks, poo poo.

2/21/2008 4:25:57 PM

[Recommend \(1\)](#)

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speakerofthetruth wrote:

Is it just me or does DeLaughter look like Donald Sutherland????? Maybe Sutherland can play him when they make a movie on all this corruption!!!

2/21/2008 4:17:52 PM

[Recommend \(2\)](#)

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humptydumpty wrote:

...unless Dickie rolls on Trent in some sort of deal...

2/21/2008 3:36:12 PM

[Recommend \(9\)](#)

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humptydumpty wrote:

MJC - Agree...there's got to be more to that story. They can't get Lott on that - it would be difficult to get him even is he did know about the 'bribe' aspect of it... I'm guessing there won't be a trial - so we may never know.

2/21/2008 3:35:11 PM

[Recommend \(5\)](#)

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mjcIII wrote:

By the way, thanks for that link Folo! I would also like to add clarity to my sentence a couple of posts ago...it will be next to impossible for them to prove that Lott knew that Scruggs promised Delaughter a consideration for a judgeship IN RETURN FOR ILLEGAL JUDICIARY FAVORS.

2/21/2008 3:25:26 PM

[Recommend \(3\)](#)

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mjcIII wrote:

Here's the best part::: Scruggs outdid them, with his \$4.3 million. A registered Democrat, Scruggs was part of a legal team that won a \$246 billion settlement against tobacco companies on behalf of a group of states. Scruggs's law firm was awarded a \$1 billion legal fee. If the Republican proposal to limit high legal fees became law, Scruggs stood to lose most of his fee. Moreover, other trial lawyers who also received huge fees would also have been hit. Given that trial lawyers are major donors to the Democratic Party, Scruggs saw the attack on their fees as a Republican effort "aimed at essentially de-funding the Democratic Party by penalizing trial lawyers."

2/21/2008 3:21:32 PM

[Recommend \(7\)](#)

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mjcIII wrote:

Whatever Lott's link to this case is (ignorance or corruption), it will be virtually impossible to prove that he knew that Scruggs was promising Delaughter consideration for a judgeship. So don't get too excited you cute little Demmy's. I wonder when the ole C-L will start discussing this interesting piece from the Boston Globe which shows Scruggs reaching out to other Republicans:

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2006/03/31/special_interes
page=full
2/21/2008 3:20:39 PM

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AG pulled into Scruggs fray

Balducci says he was promised \$500K to convince Hood not to indict State Farm

JERRY MITCHELL • JMITCHELL@CLARIONLEDGER.COM • FEBRUARY 27, 2008

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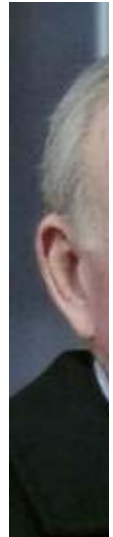
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abovethelaw wrote:

Boo Hoo Sniff Sniff is what I say. There is many more of these cases, in similar situations. Check out the Aug 9th case in Hattiesburg, where a judge ruled one way with both Attorney's present. Same judge ruled on Aug 22nd and went the opposite direction. There was only one law firm at the hearing. The opposing firm was not invited. The next hearing the following month was to get the the ruling set aside, because of an ilegal hearing, and an Attorney told the judge a lie, that the other Attorney was invited and was not. This was only 13 days between Aug 9th and Aug 22nd. The judge couldn't remember what was agreed, and couldn't find his file. The ruling was not set aside, the Attorney that told the lie was not reprimanded, and the (society club) fell Victim to the (good ole boys club) again. Something simple, because he was in Iraq, and couldn't get leave. Cost him 20,000 dollars for asking.(OH..FORGOT TO TELL YA,,YES..A LOCAL ATTORNEY'S FAMILY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE)

2/27/2008 12:58:10 PM

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humptydumpty wrote:

HappytobeMS - I think Koolaid should respond to your question. Koolaid - whereyat?

2/27/2008 12:53:37 PM

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Stick61 wrote:

Yep, gonna be a lot of mullet-growing going on if Jimmy comes out of this without a scratch on him.

2/27/2008 12:47:52 PM

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HappytobeMississippian wrote:

Why did Hood not report this offer to the FBI?

2/27/2008 12:47:14 PM

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humptydumpty wrote:

I need to lose about 5lbs so I don't look too guilty on camera. Maybe grow a mullet.

2/27/2008 12:43:38 PM

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Stick61 wrote:

I'm having much too gnarly a time to join you on the leaf, HD, but I applaud your openness to experimentation. I can see it now: a spot in the MPB lineup is coming open for you and Koolaid.

2/27/2008 12:40:11 PM

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2/27/2008 12:34:40 PM

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2/27/2008 12:04:16 PM

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2/27/2008 12:02:12 PM

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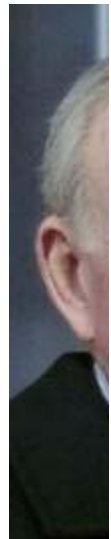
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2/27/2008 12:02:12 PM

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Stick61 wrote:

"Going down with Daddy" - Sounds vaguely obscene.

2/27/2008 11:41:47 AM

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Stick61 wrote:

Myself, I prefer the Gnarly Head Old Vine Zin and if the HORSEPOO gets any deeper I may have to resort to the Gnarlier Head Zin.

2/27/2008 11:38:15 AM

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slickdawg wrote:

I can't not believe how delusional some people are being. These are FEDERAL INDICTMENTS, and they've already led to three guilty pleas. I find it funny that Zach Scruggs and Backstrom want seperate trials than Dickie - what's the matter boys, are you scared of going down with Daddy?

2/27/2008 11:36:17 AM

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Stick61 wrote:

Oh, no, HD, it sounds like you've been sipping that Turning Leaf Merlot a little too steadily this morning! Say it ain't so. :-)

2/27/2008 11:34:28 AM

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humptydumpty wrote:

Stick, I hear that guy may be in some trouble too - but with me turning a new leaf all and starting to see the light..all of this as just a coincidence, I might reconsider...thanks for the suggestion. Oh, and don't believe that stuff about Balducci and Langston...it's not true. I wasn't aware they did anything wrong. It's the C-L that should lose their license, man...

2/27/2008 11:21:18 AM

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Reeves wrote:

DemsDemsDems: If you read my post I said most likely. I never said that there was not any gay people who were Republicans. Remember the Log Cabins? You got to ask you self, which party is more closely connected to same sex marriage.

2/27/2008 11:11:41 AM

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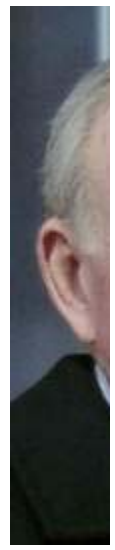
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Stick61 wrote:

HD: Here's an idea (agent-wise) - "One call, that's all."

2/27/2008 11:07:40 AM

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DemDamDems wrote:

Reeves, you said "I rather my son turn out to be gay rather than turn out to be a Democrat. But than again if he does turn out to be gay there's a very good chance also be a democrat. Well there goes that line of thinking." If this is the case, you might want you invite your son's republican boyfriend over for dinner. The last I heard there were a couple of republicans in Washington who were courting, or attempting to court little boys, like U.S. Rep. (R) Mark Foley, and U.S. Senator (R) Larry Craig. Also there is Bob Allen, Republican member of the Florida House of Rep. and Florida Chairmen of John McCain's Presidential campaign. Oh, let's don't forget Bush's pastoral counselor Ted Haggard.

2/27/2008 11:02:03 AM

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tjhl1964 wrote:

"Several days before the Jan. 23, 2007, settlement with State Farm, after our prosecutors heard three days of testimony before a Jackson County grand jury, the majority of the prosecutors ... determined ... that no fact pattern existed that fell squarely within the insurance fraud statute," Hood said. Then the Judge rejected the agreement and the pressure was put back on State Farm by the Attorney General who got slapped by a Federal Judge and yet came out claiming victory. He claims to be hard headed, but ignorant seems a better description.

2/27/2008 11:00:32 AM

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koolaid wrote:

I went to hear Buckley speak one time years ago, may he rest in heaven in peace.

2/27/2008 10:57:34 AM

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JustAVoter wrote:

Hood grossly misuses Balducci's statement: "Hood noted Balducci said of him in one of the FBI's wiretaps: "He ain't gonna dance with the one who brought him to ... the dance." Actually, Balducci made that statement when relaying that Hood was "dancing" with Langston rather than with Balducci and Balduccia felt slighted by Hood's alliance with Langston over him. Jim--I suggest you re-read the transcripts---or more likely, your intent was to deceive in the first place.

2/27/2008 10:56:29 AM

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slickdawg wrote:

Now, does anyone wonder why Hood has been extremely quiet about all of this? Hood told the Clarion Ledger editorial board that he was not pursuing state charges because "that would be like prosecuting family". Well Jimmy boy, the official word is out, you are part of the family. Only when pressed do you admit having dinner with Patterson and Balducci. I wonder what else is going to come up in the next few days.....

2/27/2008 10:55:21 AM

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koolaid wrote:

Friends, Louisiana's got NOTHIN on us! We got it all, top camapign contributors under indictment, US Senators that are icons resignin after 1 year out of 6, A governor that made being a DC Lobbyist an HONORABLE calling, another US Senator that stated that John McCain "sent cold chills down his spine", then endorsed him for President a week later, a big-city mayor who faints in meetings and doesn't pay his taxes, it is only fit for FICTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2/27/2008 10:54:13 AM

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sailor wrote:

So say we believe Hood's claim that he met w/ P&B over dinner to discuss there newly formed partnership. Wouldn't he have told them that it is against the Bar rules for a non-lawyer (Patterson) to be a partner in a law firm?

2/27/2008 10:53:30 AM

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Stick61 wrote:

Well, you apparently won't be able to use Balducci or Langston. The C-L has posted an item that shows the state Sup. Ct. is being petitioned for disbarment of them. Also, even those of us in the middle of the road or to the left of the road may have to pause here for a few minutes out of respect. The C-L has posted a note that William F. Buckley died this morning at age 82. Our friends on the RRIIGGHHTT will be feeling a little lost. I remember being forced to watch WFB and John Kenneth Galbraith on Firing Line when I was a kid. Heck, those guys were so polished they should have had a cooking show and invited Julia Child on to referee.

2/27/2008 10:49:58 AM

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koolaid wrote:

Stick61, I love it! A cooking show, and Governor Hog could make guest appearances. And after the show, we could all "lets go walkin" down Capital or State streets. And Hog can say things like" ya know, I love our food here in Mississippi, me and my trophy wife of 30 years often enjoy a meal together, thinking of how good it is that at least we collect 7% sales tax off of the liberal-welfare democrats, makes it all taste sooooo good"! "C'mon babe, lets go walkin"! God I think it would work.

2/27/2008 10:46:38 AM

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AG pulled into Scruggs fray

Balducci says he was promised \$500K to convince Hood not to indict State Farm

JERRY MITCHELL • JMITCHELL@CLARIONLEDGER.COM • FEBRUARY 27, 2008

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humptydumpty wrote:

Stick that's a great idea. We need an agent....anybody know a good attorney?

2/27/2008 10:42:47 AM

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js1976 wrote:

It doesn't matter if they are right or left, if you play you pay. Everybody out there want to know why their insurance rates are so high? Legal suits that line the pocketbooks of attorneys such as this!

2/27/2008 10:36:59 AM

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Stick61 wrote:

I think maybe y'all should start with a cooking show on TV rather than a book. Let the book, complete with recipes, grow out of the show. That way, Koolaid, the show could be something like "The Right Heat" and you could make recommendations about the best cuisine over which to conduct dirty bribe deals. You could also do a Top 10 list of the best foods to throw at your political adversaries - stuff that not even the best stain removers can get out.

2/27/2008 10:35:20 AM

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koolaid wrote:

Title of the Book: IN THE HEEEEEEAAAAATTTTTT OF THE RIGHTTTTTTTT, MUST BE AN ENDING, TO IT AAALLLLLLLLLLL. Wonder when they do all of their crooked, dirty, bribe-laden deals, if they meet in THE BOTTOMS?

2/27/2008 10:29:14 AM

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humptydumpty wrote:

I'm starting to turn a leaf here...maybe using common sense is the wrong thing to do. Maybe there is no evidence to support any possible wrong doing involving Scruggs and/or Hood (and for that matter DeLaughter and/or Peters)...I guess all of this is just happenstance and bad luck for those involved.

2/27/2008 10:28:08 AM

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Stick61 wrote:

HD: Put me down for a copy. Can we have a signing somewhere? Somewhere big enough for the rest of the crew to stage a food fight.

2/27/2008 10:24:01 AM

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mjclll wrote:

Yeah, you guys are creating this link to Hood out of thin air. I will continue to lay in

the fetal position and proclaim that anyone who incriminates Hood must be a "hater" and "freak." That is my last line of defense as I pray that the following facts will disappear from print: "Dickie Scruggs asked Steve Patterson to speak with Attorney General Jim Hood since Steve Patterson and Hood had a long standing relationship. Dickie Scruggs offered to pay (the New Albany law firm) Patterson Balducci \$500,000 if they could get Hood to relent on indicting State Farm..... Balducci told the FBI he accompanied Patterson in that meeting with Hood, who later agreed not to indict State Farm....In a statement Tuesday, Hood - who has acknowledged he had dinner with Balducci and Patterson - said his decision came after prosecutors discussed the lack of evidence."

2/27/2008 10:20:51 AM

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tjhl1964 wrote:

Well, now Mr. Hood is implicated. The same Mr. Hood that I have emails from telling me it is not his job to prosecute Judges that have accepted bribes. Yet he told the Editorial Board at Clarion Ledger that it is. Curious why he would tell me one thing and another to someone else. Oh, I remember why, the people involved in the bribe that affected me contributed to his campaign fund. Remember Mr. Hood, I told you that this would come around to bite you. I just had no idea how soon.

2/27/2008 10:20:24 AM

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humptydumpty wrote:

Stick, I appreciate the support. Maybe Koolaid and I can write a book together.

2/27/2008 10:17:59 AM

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Stick61 wrote:

I vote for Humpty and Koolaid. They're the best.

2/27/2008 10:13:13 AM

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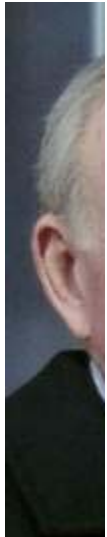
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humptydumpty wrote:

I just don't know if I can impress you at this point...I think any bashing I could do at this point would get overshadowed by your capacity of knowledge, understanding and logic. It's simply too intimidating.

2/27/2008 10:06:01 AM

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coolchange wrote:

Koolaid fell into the drink and suffered irrepreble damage.

2/27/2008 9:56:55 AM

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koolaid wrote:

Thanx Humpty..... I am sitting back and watching you freaks, so don't disappoint me, come on now, BASH BASH BASH..... BRAVO BRAVO BRAVO.....

2/27/2008 9:54:39 AM

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humptydumpty wrote:

Koolaid, you're a genius.

2/27/2008 9:46:48 AM

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coolchange wrote:

shasar wrote: Stupid-Stupid-Stupid! Thanks for enlightening us with your stupidity.

2/27/2008 9:32:48 AM

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Reeves wrote:

I apologize for the typing errors below, with the lost words.

2/27/2008 9:31:42 AM

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Reeves wrote:

I that this whole Scruggs thing is just a big conspiracy created by all those Ole Miss lawyers to give their other Ole Miss buddy, John Grisham, writing material for the rest of his life. Just joking! Somebody is going to jail over this.

2/27/2008 9:30:19 AM

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Reeves wrote:

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there is a very good chance also be a democrat. Well there goes that line of thinking.

2/27/2008 9:27:17 AM

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speakerofthetruth wrote:

Democrat Haters??? I just said Barbour is probably a crook too! I am sure ole Trent Lott is a lot more involved than it appears. What do yo think he and ole Dickie talk about over family dinners,,, the weather????? Heck no,, I am sure they are discussing "favors" for each other or friends!!!! Power corrupts,, and absolute power corrupts absolutely!!!!

2/27/2008 9:21:56 AM

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koolaid wrote:

Oh boy oh boy oh boy, PARADISE FOR THE DEM HATERS TODAY, MORONS! A story that mentions BOTH Hood and Scruggs in the same place. BINGO for the FREAKS to come out! They are all crooks, they are all crooks, take bribes, give bribes, rig the vote, let dead people vote, hate all big business, love welfare, WANT all illegal aliens, yada yada yada. Sit back and watch the FREAKS go to work.....

2/27/2008 9:13:23 AM

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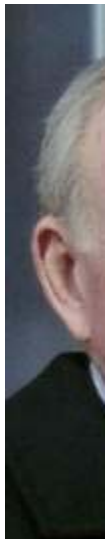
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senjimoma wrote:

In the book THE GODFATHER Don Corleone said "a lawyer can steal more money with a briefcase than a man with a gun". WOW who knew!!! A thief is a thief whether he has a briefcase or a gun and in my not so humble opinion they should go to the same maximum security prison. What a picture it would be having not so attractive Dickie, swaggering Jim, slinking Mike Moore trying to make a friend in the pen, all for greed. Trent Lott would NEVER have left the Senate if he had not known that this was about to blow sky high. He may not have been directly involved but Scruggs is his brother in law and he has turned a blind eye more than once. Good riddance to him.

2/27/2008 9:09:27 AM

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speakerofthetruth wrote:

what are you talking about? I have been bashing Jimmy Boy Hood from day one!!! I am sure Haley Barbour is just as crooked as them. I am not about bashing people,, unless they are crooks.

2/27/2008 9:07:00 AM

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shasar wrote:

What a bunch of crud. Now the commentators are bashing Jim Hood. Barbour must be padding these bashers pocket books because he doesn't want Jim Hood to win the election. If Jim Hood does win, Barbour is going to have a heck of a time making decisions that he is not legally able to do, but which he does at this time. If it were up to Barbour, he would be appointing Wicker to his permanent replacement position of Trent Lott's rather than the citizens of Mississippi voting on their own choice. Talk about corruption, it's even down to the lower level of these bashing Hood commentators. It's obvious as to the bashing because the entire article is not about Hood at all, but these bashing commentators are attempting to make it "all" about Jim Hood. Stupid, stupid and another stupid!

2/27/2008 8:58:58 AM

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speakerofthetruth wrote:

Oh, Jimmy Boy!!! I knew you were a crook!! The boys in the Federal Pen cant wait to make you their punk and run thier fingers through that pretty mullett of yours. Not only are you a crook,, you have bad hair. Oh,, Mike Moore,, i know you are a crook too. I am just ready to read your name in the paper!!!

2/27/2008 8:39:35 AM

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robot0 wrote:

Maybe it's time for Jim Hood to face feds on this on now.

2/27/2008 8:37:39 AM

[Recommend \(1\)](#)

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DeltaDawn wrote:

One additional comment: Mississippi will never be the laughing stock of the nation, no matter how much corruption is turned up and proven. The last time I checked Louisiana is still down there!

2/27/2008 8:37:09 AM

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DeltaDawn wrote:

Thanks to the press, guilty or not guilty, this case will never go to court and be finalized anywhere around here. No matter if the accused are 100% guilty, they are still entitled to a fair trial which will be impossible with a blow by blow of everything the CL wants you to hear daily. Some articles I have to read and re-read to figure out the he said, she said scenarios. I think they need to settle out of court, let Mr. Scruggs and company pay the state coffers \$500 million dollars, which will bail Medicaid out for quite some times, then start afresh with an updated set of rules for lawyers to abide by before castration. His money is worth much more to us than the satisfaction of jailing his butt at our expense.

2/27/2008 8:33:03 AM

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fedup2008 wrote:

Ah come on guys, whatever happened to innocent until proven guilty. LOL! JUST KIDDING! Jim Hood and Dickie Scruggs have attacked insurers across the State whether they did anything wrong during Katrina or not. Insurers were the target of Jim Hood b/c he wanted to protect Mississippians along the coast. Bunk! He wanted to clear the way for his buddy Scruggs to come in and clean out any insurer he could get his paws into! Mississippians are now paying the price for lawsuits. I am not saying that all the insurers were in the "right" but trial attorneys like to make it appear that all insurance companies are the bad guys. Maybe some of these guys need to look in the mirror before they start screaming "bad guy" about someone else. What I can't wait to see is where the good ole' brother-in-law of Scruggs comes into play here. Hang on folks.....this is going to be a bumpy corrupted ride! Our State is going to be the laughing stock b/c of corruption!

2/27/2008 8:31:01 AM

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falcon47 wrote:

You have to wonder if the state is going to be sued over the outcome of all this corruption. The known 2 billion 84 million our claims were used to acquire awards for to which the awards were kept as DeLaughter has released the claims. we have demands for relief to the lower court the District court and have forwarded documents to the AG. Even if they all go to jail, what about the rights of anyone to gain relief amidst these band of thieves. we have reported to everyone and our keeping our records which only show that the court simply and fully intended to use us to its personal gains. you'll need to get your head out of that place the sunshine law hasn't been. I will never stop trying to have this matter heard. attorneys no longer chase ambulance they moved on to hearse and are ruining lives in the process.

2/27/2008 8:18:42 AM

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missx7 wrote:

And don't forget the other coast connection--our former AG, Mr. Moore, who set this all in motion. The whole Mississippi plaintiff's bar who have benefited from all this should be held accountable. They have colluded, manipulated, pillaged and embarrassed us all.....

2/27/2008 8:12:11 AM
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POWER

AG pulled into Scruggs fray

Balducci says he was promised \$500K to convince Hood not to indict State Farm

JERRY MITCHELL • JMITCHELL@CLARIONLEDGER.COM • FEBRUARY 27, 2008

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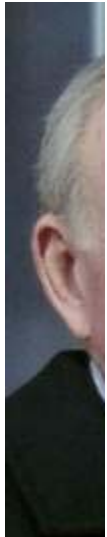
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A Mississippi lawyer who already has pleaded guilty to bribing a judge told the FBI that Dickie Scruggs promised him \$500,000 to persuade Attorney General Jim Hood to back off filing criminal charges against State Farm Fire and Casualty Cos.



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New Albany lawyer Timothy Balducci - who has pleaded guilty to paying a \$40,000 bribe to Circuit Judge Henry Lackey to rule in Scruggs' favor in an attorneys' fees dispute - is expected to be a key witness against Scruggs in his upcoming criminal trial. Scruggs' attorney, John Keker of San Francisco, insists his client is innocent of bribery charges and knew nothing about Balducci paying the bribe.

Hood responded Tuesday that his decision not to indict State Farm was based solely on advice from senior prosecutors.

In other court action Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers denied several defense motions, including one to keep prosecutors from introducing certain evidence against Scruggs in his upcoming trial, such as wiretaps and another

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alleged "bad act" by him.

In a Nov. 12 memo by FBI agent William Delaney, Balducci is described as a "confidential human source"

who gave federal authorities his version of events.

The memo, contained in U.S. District Court documents, says, "Scruggs Law Firm and State Farm were near a settlement; however, Dickie Scruggs learned that the Mississippi State Attorney General's office had threatened to indict State Farm Insurance Co. due to some impasses between the attorney general's office and State Farm ..., (which) was not going to settle the civil cases with Scruggs Law Firm, if the company was going to be indicted by the attorney general's office.

"Dickie Scruggs asked Steve Patterson to speak with Attorney General Jim Hood since Steve Patterson and Hood had a long standing relationship. Dickie Scruggs offered to pay (the New Albany law firm) Patterson Balducci \$500,000 if they could get Hood to relent on indicting State Farm."

Balducci told the FBI he accompanied Patterson in that meeting with Hood, who later agreed not to indict State Farm.

In a statement Tuesday, Hood - who has acknowledged he had dinner with Balducci and Patterson - said his decision came after prosecutors discussed the lack of evidence.

"Several days before the Jan. 23, 2007, settlement with State Farm, after our prosecutors heard three days of testimony before a Jackson County grand jury, the majority of the prosecutors ... determined ... that no fact pattern existed that fell squarely within the insurance fraud statute," Hood said. "I made my decision that there was insufficient evidence to uphold a conviction of State Farm on evidence we had at the time ... I am too hardheaded to be influenced by outside forces ..."

Hood noted Balducci said of him in one of the FBI's wiretaps: "He ain't gonna dance with the one who brought him to ... the dance."

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Deltapirate wrote:

The time has come for Mr. Hood to consider stepping aside. Another headline like Wednesday's will move him closer to being a cartoon character vis a vis the state's top lawyer. The Mississippi Bar Association isn't helping its reputation by being a spectator. Where's its investigation of the attorney general? When does that start? The scary thing is that a rich lawyer like Mr. Scruggs has the power to buy the political structure of the entire state.

2/27/2008 8:05:26 AM

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moslander wrote:

Hood should resign.

2/27/2008 7:34:43 AM

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AlgerHiss wrote:

RJ Reynolds □ Philip Morris □ you need to get into this fray and spend some big dollars for private investigators and forensic accountants. The evidence on Scruggs and Hood is there somewhere. You owe it to your shareholders and employees to help nail these bas***ds.

2/27/2008 6:43:04 AM

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loner wrote:

i will be glad when all the evidence is introduced in this scandal.anytime big money is passed between influential people in high places,there has to be a motive.the problem, with our state is that there is not such thing as ethics when it comes to politicians and lawyers.anytime, politicians can introduce or be a part of legislation that contributes to their financial wealth and it is legal, we have major problems at the bottom of the food chain.

2/27/2008 6:21:13 AM

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yazoskeptic wrote:

Methinks Mr Shakespeare had it correctly way back then...."First, lets kill all the lawyers....."

2/27/2008 5:18:53 AM

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joedink1 wrote:

and all Satans children cried "OCH"!!! HAHA ! These scum have no morals, intergrity or shame. Making tons of stolen \$\$\$\$\$ AND WANTING MORE, never enough for greedy people. God set's his sites on guys like them and one day he pulls the trigger and BAM!! Dead Dogs. "be sure a man will reep what he sow's" The Holy Bible...

2/27/2008 5:06:35 AM
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Judge: Scruggs indictment stands; Lott's name mentioned

2/20/2008, 5:59 p.m. CST
By CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — Powerful plaintiffs attorney Richard "Dickie" Scruggs tried to use his brother-in-law, former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, to influence the ruling of a sitting Mississippi judge, a government witness testified Wednesday in federal court.

The testimony about Lott came during a hearing in a separate federal case in which Scruggs, his son Zach, and law partner Sidney Backstrom are charged with trying to bribe Circuit Judge Henry Lackey to get a favorable ruling in a dispute over \$26.5 million in legal fees.

Lott is not charged with any wrongdoing in either case.

U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. refused Wednesday to dismiss the charges against Scruggs and others in the alleged bribery attempt involving Lackey. The hearing was scheduled to continue Thursday. A trial is scheduled to start March 31.

Former New Albany attorney Timothy Balducci, who has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge and is helping prosecutors in their case against Scruggs, brought up Lott's name during his testimony.

Prosecutors say Balducci approached Lackey with a "bribe overture" last year. The judge reported the attempt and worked undercover for the FBI. Balducci allegedly delivered \$40,000 to Lackey in three installments between last September and November.

When asked if he was sure Scruggs was actively involved in the conspiracy, Balducci said yes and said he was also privy to another alleged attempt by the Scruggs Law Firm to influence a judge for a favorable ruling.

When pressed by Scruggs' attorney, John Keker, Balducci testified that Scruggs had tried to use Lott to influence rulings made by Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter in another dispute involving legal fees. DeLaughter has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged.

[deaths](#) 3/2/2008, 12:46 p.m. CST

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"(DeLaughter) was offered the influence of Mr. Scruggs' brother-in-law, who was Sen. Trent Lott, to put him on a list to be considered for a federal vacancy," Balducci testified.

Balducci testified that Lott made the call during the first quarter of 2006.

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Published: February 22, 2008 12:06 pm  

Lott could be potential witness in Scruggs trial

Associated Press

Oxford — Both the defense and prosecution in the federal bribery case against famed plaintiffs attorney Richard “Dickie” Scruggs and his associates plan to call retired Sen. Trent Lott to the stand if a judge allows testimony about Scruggs’ “prior bad acts” in the upcoming trial.

U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. is considering whether to allow testimony about what a federal witness called a bribery attempt of Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter in an unrelated case.

It was the second time during a two-day hearing to deal with several motions that the former Republican senator’s name was brought up in connection with Scruggs, his brother-in-law.

Witness Timothy Balducci, who has pleaded guilty to a federal bribery charge and is cooperating with the prosecution, said Wednesday that Lott called DeLaughter on Scruggs’ behalf.

Balducci claimed Lott told the judge that he would put him on the list of potential candidates for a federal judgeship if he made a favorable ruling in a case involving a dispute over legal fees.



DeLaughter and Lott deny any wrongdoing.

Scruggs, his son and law partner Zach, and attorney Sidney Backstrom are accused of trying to bribe another judge to get a favorable ruling in a dispute over \$26.5 million in legal fees from a mass settlement of Hurricane Katrina insurance lawsuits.

All three have pleaded not guilty and a trial is set to begin March 31.

Richard Scruggs, who made hundreds of millions of dollars taking on tobacco, asbestos and insurance companies, could get 75 years in prison if convicted.

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The prosecution would like to introduce the claim that Scruggs bribed DeLaughter to show the jury that the elder Scruggs had a history of trying to influence judges before he allegedly conspired to pay Lafayette County Circuit Judge Henry Lackey \$40,000 for a favorable ruling.

Lott has denied to The Associated Press through a spokesman being involved in any bribery attempt of DeLaughter. The former senator said the judge, who also has told the AP he has done no wrong, was among several people Lott made courtesy calls to about a vacancy in the federal court system. Lott recommended Gulf Coast attorney Sul Ozerden for the post.

Scruggs attorney John Keker and Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Norman gave lists of who they would call if Biggers allowed testimony about the alleged bribe to DeLaughter. Lott's name came up both times.

"And I believe his testimony would be short," Norman said.

Norman also said he would call Sen. Thad Cochran to testify since Mississippi's congressional delegation likely came to a consensus on who to recommend.

Keker argued that testimony about the alleged bribe attempt should be excluded because there is nothing illegal about a lawyer suggesting a judge for a federal post. He also noted that DeLaughter is a Democrat, making it unlikely that he would be appointed by a Republican administration even if Lott used his considerable influence for his cause.

"If the government thinks this is a crime, they have a way to deal with it," Keker said. "They can bring a charge."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Dawson told the court the DeLaughter case "is under active investigation by the Public Integrity section at the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. even as we speak."

In a follow up interview, Dawson said he's aware of news reports that Lott is being investigated, but had no direct knowledge of any investigation of the former senator.

The case that DeLaughter presided over goes back to 1994 when two of Scruggs' former associates, attorneys Alwyn Luckey and William Roberts Wilson Jr., sued Scruggs for a bigger cut of millions of dollars that the attorneys won in asbestos litigation. The case worked its way through the courts for years before DeLaughter ruled in August 2006.

Scruggs' former defense attorney, Joey Langston, of Booneville, has pleaded guilty to trying to influence DeLaughter.

DeLaughter, a former assistant district attorney, is renowned for prosecuting Byron De La Beckwith in the early 1990s for the 1963 murder of NAACP field secretary Medger Evers. That case was portrayed in the 1996 movie "Ghosts of Mississippi."

Biggers wrapped up the hearing by denying the defense's request to move the upcoming trial out of Mississippi. Keker noted what he described as heavy negative coverage that seemed limited to the state and especially the Oxford area, where Scruggs' went to the University of Mississippi and has a law office downtown.

The judge said he would rule on motions to suppress wiretapping evidence, exclude testimony about the alleged bribery of DeLaughter and sever Zach Scruggs and Backstrom from the case of Richard Scruggs by next Tuesday.



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Lawyer in judicial bribery case claims witness lied to grand jury

3/3/2008, 4:58 p.m. CT

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A key government witness lied to the grand jury that indicted several attorneys on charges they conspired to bribe a state judge, one of the accused lawyers claims in court papers filed Monday.

Zach Scruggs, an Oxford, Miss.-based attorney whose well-known father and law partner also faces a bribery charge in the same case, is asking a federal judge to dismiss his indictment due to alleged government misconduct.

Scruggs' lawyers claim grand jurors heard false and misleading testimony from an FBI agent and from former attorney Timothy Balducci, who already has pleaded guilty to conspiring with Scruggs and others to bribe state Circuit Judge Henry Lackey.

Zach Scruggs' indictment is a product of their "patently false and misleading" testimony, his lawyers argue.

"It has been clear since the filing of this indictment that the government has no credible evidence that (Zach Scruggs) knowingly participated in any scheme to bribe a judge," the defense lawyers wrote.

U.S. Attorney Jim Greenlee didn't immediately return a call for comment Monday. Balducci has represented himself in the criminal matter. His office number has been disconnected.

A trial for prominent plaintiffs lawyer Richard "Dickie" Scruggs; his son, Zach; and fellow Scruggs Law Firm attorney Sidney Backstrom is scheduled to start March 31 in Oxford.

Richard Scruggs, a brother-in-law of former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., made tens of millions of dollars from tobacco and asbestos litigation. His role in a landmark settlement with tobacco companies was depicted in the 1999 film "The Insider," starring Al Pacino and Russell Crowe.

Last week, U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. rejected a different motion by all three defendants to dismiss the charges based on the government's "outrageous conduct." However, Zach Scruggs' attorneys didn't see transcripts of grand jury proceedings until last week.

Zach Scruggs claims the transcripts, when compared to wiretap evidence, show that Balducci lied to the grand jury and mischaracterized Scruggs' knowledge of and participation in the alleged conspiracy.

Prosecutors claim Balducci was acting on Richard Scruggs' behalf when he allegedly tried to bribe Lackey for a favorable ruling in a dispute with other lawyers over \$26.5 million in fees from a mass settlement of Hurricane Katrina insurance lawsuits.

The FBI arrested Balducci on Nov. 1 and sent him into the Scruggs Law Firm wearing a body wire. Balducci later testified that he met with Zach Scruggs and Backstrom that day and told them that Lackey wanted \$10,000 for the favorable ruling.

However, Zach Scruggs' lawyers say a recording of that Nov. 1 conversation shows that Balducci used confusing, coded language while their client "only participated in an ordinary conversation about how a judge's order reads."

Zach Scruggs' lawyers also accuse FBI Special Agent William Delaney of giving grand jurors a misleading account of taped conversations between the suspects in the case.

"The Government seeks to convict (Scruggs) on coded words uttered after he is disengaged from a conversation and on actions perceived through a presumptuous lens; yet they indicted a man relying on testimony they knew was facially false and wholly inaccurate," they wrote.