


JUSTICE IS DUE

# Will US District Judge Douglas Rayes correct 13 years of corruption?

*Judge Rayes sits over a \$135 Million suit against Defendants Former Assistant US Attorney Monica Edelstein, Former Assistant US Attorney Timothy Stockwell, Disbarred Attorney Christopher Rusch, and IRS CID Agent Cheryl Bradley brought by Michael Quiel alleging RICO and perjury in his wrongful conviction – Defendants expect Judge Rayes to cover-up their corruption in bid to dismiss case.*



**Judge Douglas Rayes**  
By US-Observer Staff

Phoenix, AZ – In a case of wrongful conviction that just keeps giving, Michael Quiel is

Story on page 2

INJUSTICE SPOTLIGHT

# Judge D. Charles Bailey Traffics Abused Child?

## Latest Ruling Proves Judge / System Doesn't Care for Boy's Safety


*Federal Civil Suit Filed for Eight Years of Systemic Abuse, Seeks Protection for Child from Court-Ordered Reunification with Alleged Sex Abuser*

By Ron Lee  
Investigative Journalist

Hillsboro, OR – According to the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Children & Families, Family Law website, “The best interest of the child is the main focus in making decisions about custody ...” Obviously the OJD believes that’s what a judge should weigh when deciding who gets custody and shares time with a child.

In Oregon’s Washington County that has not been the experience of KM, an abused boy who is being forced by Judge D. Charles Bailey to reunify with his father, Terry Allen McCleary, who according to a federal suit filed on KM’s behalf, “made him eat his own feces, made him watch pornography, shot him in the torso with a rubber bullet, and allowed a friend, identified as ‘Worm’ to whip him with a Bondage sexual masochism whip.” Judge Bailey has been informed of the accusations against the father, as well as the founded sex abuse claims against the father’s mother, Connie McCleary, who also allegedly abused KM. All of it is being disregarded as Judge Bailey moves forward with plans to reunify KM with those the boy claims to have abused him, even going so far as admonishing KM’s current custodial guardians for their attempts to protect KM.

For the last 8 years, 14-year-old KM has been the focus of a contentious custody case. Since 2019, KM has been told by the Washington County Family Court, first through Judge Keith Raines and more recently at the order of Judge D. Charles Bailey that he is to be reunited with his “abusive” father. It’s a prospect that continues to frighten KM, whose only safe place has been found with his loving



**Judge D. Charles Bailey**  
attempts to protect KM.

Continued on page 7

# Florida Realtor Scams Elderly Man 78-year-old Brent Sampson Wants What “Samuel Hartzog Stole” From Him

By Edward Snook  
Investigative Reporter

Pensacola, FL – Now living in Thailand, with his American Dream shattered, 78-year-old Brent Sampson, has found happiness again, despite the fact that a former Florida Realtor took nearly everything from him. The US-Observer has conducted a thorough investigation and having validated Brent’s allegations, we have decided to publish the following story, partly in his own words.

As you read on, keep in mind that Brent worked very hard throughout his life, saving money to make property purchases. He had a close friend who had acquired a good retirement by investing in Pensacola property, so, at age 56 he decided to do the same. Brent located a Florida realtor to assist him, and the realtor had Brent sign a Power of Attorney so



**Brent Sampson**

Continued on page 13

# “Behavioral Pediatrician” Charlene Sabin Shouldn't be Trusted by Any Court

*Editor's Note: Every now and then we are contacted so many times regarding the wrongdoing of the same individual (usually a prosecutor or a judge), we feel it is our responsibility to uncover the truth behind all of the allegations. Do the accusations have merit, and is there evidence to prove what these people are saying is accurate? We launch an investigation to find out. If the reports are true and verifiable, then it becomes our duty to inform others before they are harmed by that individual. If you have information on Dr. Sabin, call us at 541-474-7885.*

By Ron Lee  
Investigative Journalist

Our inboxes have been filling up. One doctor is on a lot of people’s minds, they “are being abused” and they are reaching out to us for help. In fact, ever since we took on our first child custody case, complaints against this doctor have appeared. Now, all these years later, with growing public outcry, multiple cases where the doctor is directly involved in



**Pediatrician, Dr. Charlene Sabin**

Continued on page 10

CONSUMER ALERT

# Are you having an issue with a business or corporation?

If so, contact us today:  
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WRONGLY IMPRISONED


# An Accusation Gets You Life, Plus 25 Years in Prison

## Abusive Florida Judge Yet to Answer for This Crime!

*This travesty of justice is not only an indictment on Judge Jan Shackelford, it is an indictment on the entire severely broken criminal justice system in Florida!*

By Edward Snook  
Investigative Reporter

Escambia County, FL – Most professionals would agree that children lie. Young children often have a creative and vivid imagination. Learning the implications of a lie can be difficult without proper guidance. When a child lies, adults often laugh hysterically because it is so blatantly obvious. As a parent, I can relate to a child’s fib and the humorous aspect of such. Despite the humor of lies told by children, the implications of certain untruths can have serious effects. How can someone believe a child who clearly displays deceitful traits? How does a parent or an adult make the determination whether a lie is acceptable or not, regardless of its nature? How can you tell the difference between a lie and truth



Continued on page 11



**Rogers “Skates”**  
• Abuser Escapes Justice  
Page ... 6



**Billy Binion**  
• SCOTUS Property Tax Ruling  
Page ... 8



**Daisy Luther**  
• Gaslighting the American People  
Page ... 9



**John Stossel**  
• Time Bomb  
Page ... 9



**Need Help?**  
• Have You Been Falsely Accused of a Crime?  
Page ... 15

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**Page 15**



**Page 16**



being attacked civilly for fines associated with his case. To push the fines in court, the government is using its previously conspired narrative that Mr. Quiel had filed certain tax documents in previous years – it’s an assertion that Quiel can now prove beyond all doubt never happened. Not only should the government’s civil case be thrown out, his conviction should be vacated.

In 2006, Arizona resident Michael Quiel was notified he was being audited for tax years 2000 to 2003. IRS Agent Cheryl Bradley was representing the IRS as the auditor. Early into the audit Bradley told Mr. Quiel that the audit was very specific regarding a corporate credit card Mr. Quiel previously used.

The credit card was issued by a Belize corporation that contracted with Mr. Quiel and was issued by a bank located in Belize. The credit card was issued for business expenses and was given to Mr. Quiel in 2000. In 2003 the card was returned, and the account was closed. Over that period of time there was roughly \$220,000 charged on the card in expenses. Ms. Bradley was interested in the Belize credit card because the charges on the card were not listed on Mr. Quiel’s personal tax returns.

Not knowing what to do, Mr. Quiel searched the Internet for an attorney and found self-proclaimed offshore tax expert Christopher Rusch. After being retained by Quiel, Rusch began working directly with IRS agent Bradley.

From the period of January 2006 to June 2006, Rusch and Bradley negotiated a settlement. As conditioned from the settlement, it was required that Mr. Quiel add the \$220,000 in charges that were on the card onto his personal tax returns for years 2000 to 2003. Rusch acted as tax preparer and amended Mr. Quiel’s tax returns for the years 2000 to 2003. It is important to recognize when a tax return is amended that only the pages that are amended are included and re-filed. The original return pages are not amended and are not included in the amended returns.

By June 2006, Mr. Quiel’s audit was complete. Rusch had amended the tax returns and all three parties Mr. Quiel, Rusch, and Bradley, signed off on a settlement agreement. Mr. Quiel was required to pay taxes and fines for the years 2000 to 2003. The taxes and fines were paid immediately. Years later in 2013, at Quiel’s criminal trial associated with a foreign bank account created by Christopher Rusch, Bradley testified Mr. Quiel did not want to pay the settled upon fines and required a payment plan.

On day three of the trial transcripts, Bradley responds to question’s asked by prosecutor Monica Edelstein:

- Edelstein:** Was payment due on the additional tax and penalties at this time?
- Bradley:** Yes.
- Edelstein:** Did Mr. Quiel pay at this time?
- Bradley:** No. They requested an installment agreement.
- Edelstein:** What is an installment agreement?
- Bradley:** It’s an agreement form where they agree to certain installments that are paid monthly to pay off their tax due.

According to several people associated with the case, Bradley’s testimony was absolute perjury and was designed to damage Mr. Quiel’s character in front of the jury. Mr. Quiel had in fact paid all taxes and fees immediately (Quiel notified Rusch it was being done). This can be confirmed by the Internal Revenue Service stamped “received” checks, all marked on the same day – Oct. 30, 2006.

THE SWISS ACCOUNT

Shortly after the 2006 audit was complete, Rusch, the international tax expert, began soliciting his new client Mr. Quiel with many different types of new offshore ventures. One of the ventures Rusch sold to Mr. Quiel was to invest in a Swiss Bank owned and operated by Rusch. Rusch was going to operate the bank along with management, which was handpicked and hired by Rusch himself. Mr. Quiel invested millions and acquired 4% of Rusch’s Swiss Bank. According to Rusch, the 4% ownership of the Swiss Bank would not require reporting and was recommended by Rusch. This was explained in detail by Rusch in an e-mail explaining the exact way Mr. Quiel needed to report the investment on his taxes. Mr. Quiel did not question Rusch’s tax advice and followed the instructions exactly as Rusch instructed.

Rusch not only sold Mr. Quiel 4% of his Swiss Bank, he also represented him as counsel in the same venture. This is an ethical violation that would require a waiver that Rusch never obtained from Mr. Quiel.

In March of 2010, Mr. Quiel found out he was the target of an IRS and DOJ criminal investigation. The investigation was for Quiel’s involvement in corporate Swiss Bank accounts. Rusch set up, was sole signatory and

was the majority shareholder of the corporation that titled the accounts. In March 2010, a grand jury was convened and over sixty of Mr. Quiel’s business investors were either called to testify or were interviewed. Mr. Quiel was being accused of conspiring to hide money offshore in Swiss Banks to avoid paying taxes, a charge he was later acquitted of. Rusch, the tax expert, bank operator and bank owner expert, initially represented Mr. Quiel in this criminal case which turned out to be an obvious conflict of interest.

The Swiss Bank turned out to be a major swindle. Rusch later admitted that he had not set up the bank properly in Switzerland. Rusch also admitted that none of this was Mr. Quiel’s fault. In a recorded meeting held in January of 2011, Rusch’s exact words were:

- Rusch:** To be honest, I wasn’t even clear if you had to file one until we were going back to the states, but he (Quiel) wouldn’t know that he needed to file one (FBAR) on UBS unless I told him.
- Attorney:** Okay.
- Rusch:** Because, as I’ve said, neither of them (Quiel, or his co-defendant) were interacting with the bank, or doing wires, or writing checks, which is how you would usually know that, hey, I’ve got a foreign bank account over which I need to disclose or not.
- Attorney:** And the reason you didn’t tell him to is that you had — you didn’t know that?
- Rusch:** Correct.
- Attorney:** And you’re still.. you’re still not convinced that he has to file them?
- Rusch:** Yeah.

In 2013, Mr. Quiel’s trial began. Five criminal charges were filed with the court. Filing false tax returns for 2007 and 2008, not filing Foreign Bank Account Reports (FBARs) for foreign bank accounts for 2007 and 2008 and the largest charge of conspiracy, which alone, carried a twenty-year prison sentence.

When the trial started, one of the first things that the government put at the forefront to the jury was the prior audit of having a foreign credit card in 2000 to 2003. The government used this to erroneously prove to the jury that Mr. Quiel had the knowledge that he had to file

the portion of his tax return Schedule B, Section III and File FBAR forms. Rusch, now lead witness for the government, was the PREPARER that filed these amended tax returns as previously stated. To be clear, at the time of Rusch’s testimony, he was Mr. Quiel’s Tax Attorney; Mr. Quiel’s Tax Preparer; Swiss bank operator of a bank Mr. Quiel owned 4% of, Mr. Quiel’s Criminal Attorney; and now LEAD WITNESS for the government against his own client, Michael Quiel.

According to expert sources, it is important to note that a credit card is NOT considered a bank account for foreign reporting purposes. When Rusch amended the tax returns in 2000 to 2003, Mr. Quiel was not required to check the box for a foreign bank account on Schedule B Section III nor was he required to file FBARs for those years.

The forms required to report a foreign bank account on the tax return are on Schedule B Section III, so when Rusch amended the tax returns for the unreported credit card, he was NOT required to check the box on Schedule B Section III or file an FBAR.

In 2013, Rusch took the stand in Mr. Quiel’s criminal trial for the government and unbelievably testified against his client Mr. Quiel. Prosecuting attorney Monica Edelstein questioned Rusch on the stand. In order to prove Mr. Quiel’s willful intent, the government brought the prior audit of the Belize credit card income up to the jury. Then Prosecutor Monica Edelstein questioned Rusch about the prior audit in 2000 to 2003. Edelstein specifically questioned Rusch about when he prepared the amended 2000-2003 tax returns, specifically how he amended Schedule B Section III, and whether Rusch had filed FBAR forms. Rusch stated that he did prepare and file those forms, checked the box on Schedule B, Section III and filed FBARS.

On day eight of trial, here is Rusch’s actual testimony:

- Edelstein:** “Did those amended returns reflect the existence of a foreign bank account on Schedule B as required?”
- Rusch:** “Yes, it did. I prepared them and signed them, sent them to Mr. Quiel for his signature, and he forwarded them on to the agent assigned to the case.”
- Edelstein:** “And were there any FBARs or reports of foreign bank accounts that were also disclosed to the auditor?”
- Rusch:** “Yes, they — yes.”
- Edelstein:** “And I guess by “disclosed,” did you prepare them?”
- Rusch:** “Yes.”
- Edelstein:** “And how did you prepare those FBARS?”
- Rusch:** “Based on the bank account statements received by Mr. Quiel I filled in the bank name, bank address, highest balance on the account, and then sent them to Mr. Quiel.”
- Edelstein:** “And was just the Belize account reflected on the FBAR?”
- Rusch:** “Yes, it was.”

At trial, IRS Agent Cheryl Bradley took the stand and also “gave perjured testimony” that her audit concluded that years 2000-2003 had the box checked on Schedule B, Section III and also confirmed FBARS were filed for those tax years.

At this point it would seem like Mr. Quiel’s defense attorney would have easily uncovered this perjured testimony with the 2000-2003 tax forms showing the box was NOT CHECKED and that FBARS were not filed, but the evidence was purposely hidden from the jury. You see the IRS/DOJ refused to release Quiel’s 2000-2003 tax returns to create their perfect narrative for conviction. All the while, the truth was all contained in Mr. Quiel’s IRS IMF and the defense never got to see it.

It is important to explain what an IRS Internal Master File is. An IMF is a file held on each taxpayer that holds all information on that taxpayer and the tax returns and forms that they file. If Mr. Quiel would have had access to his IMF file, it would have been easy to prove the obvious lie that Rusch, Bradley and Edelstein where concocting.

Mr. Quiel’s IMF file containing all the tax forms from 2000 to 2003, which were requested by Mr. Quiel’s defense counsel PRIOR to trial, were all withheld. The government simply refused to comply. During trial Mr. Quiel requested his IMF file be entered into evidence. Federal Judge James A. Teilborg denied Mr. Quiel’s access to his file but allowed the government to extract one page of the file and introduce it as damning evidence against Mr. Quiel. Mr. Quiel’s defense attorney objected but Judge Teilborg would not uphold the objection. For the second time, on day eight of trial, Mr. Quiel’s defense attorney requested Judge Teilborg compel the government to give the Defense access to Mr. Quiel’s IMF file. Again, Mr. Quiel was denied access.

What is amazing is that the criminal rules in federal court say that the defendant should have access to 100% of any information that assists in an accused person’s defense. In this case, Prosecutor Edelstein and Judge Teilborg purposely withheld the IMF file that contained the information that would incriminate Rusch and Bradley and exonerate Mr. Quiel.

The result of the jury never seeing Quiel’s IMF was a guilty verdict on the charge of filing false tax returns for 2007 and 2008. Quiel was found innocent on all the other charges – where he was able to provide all his evidence.

For many years after the trial, Mr. Quiel tried to obtain his IMF file. Mr. Quiel sent many Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. All FOIA requests were ignored or denied. Mr. Quiel even filed another post-conviction motion and requested Judge Teilborg compel the IRS to deliver Mr. Quiel’s IMF file and again Teilborg denied the motion.

Years later, the criminal case concluded, and all criminal appeals were finalized by 2020. The government has now brought a Civil case against Mr. Quiel. The DOJ/IRS wasn’t satisfied with falsely convicting Quiel they now want to destroy Mr. Quiel financially.

Thanks to Mr. Quiel’s tenacious civil attorney he was finally able to obtain a copy of his IMF file in March of 2020. Within the file was the proof that Edelstein, Rusch and Bradley had all conspired to concoct the testimony of lies that Mr. Quiel knew how to file Schedule B Section III and an FBAR form.

The tax forms from the audit in 2000 to 2003 that Rusch prepared, and Bradley audited did NOT have the box checked on Schedule B, Section III nor did they include the FBARS that Rusch and Bradley both testified existed – ethical people consider this perjury.

US District Judge Teilborg is complicit in this conspiracy for the pure fact that he denied Mr. Quiel access to his IMF file during trial. Judge Teilborg had an opportunity to produce it after trial when it was requested but he denied Mr. Quiel all access to the evidence that would have exonerated him.

Judge Teilborg’s final order issued September 14th, 2018, states the following:

*“Petitioner fails to adequately justify why he could not have learned that the IRS refused to turn over this information prior to his appeal. His conclusion that he could not have learned of this information, because “IRS Criminal Investigations” was blocking his access to the FBARS, misses the mark. If he had asked for the FBARS prior to appeal, and had received*



Cheryl Bradley



Christopher Rusch, now known as Christian Reeves



Michael Quiel



Monica Edelstein

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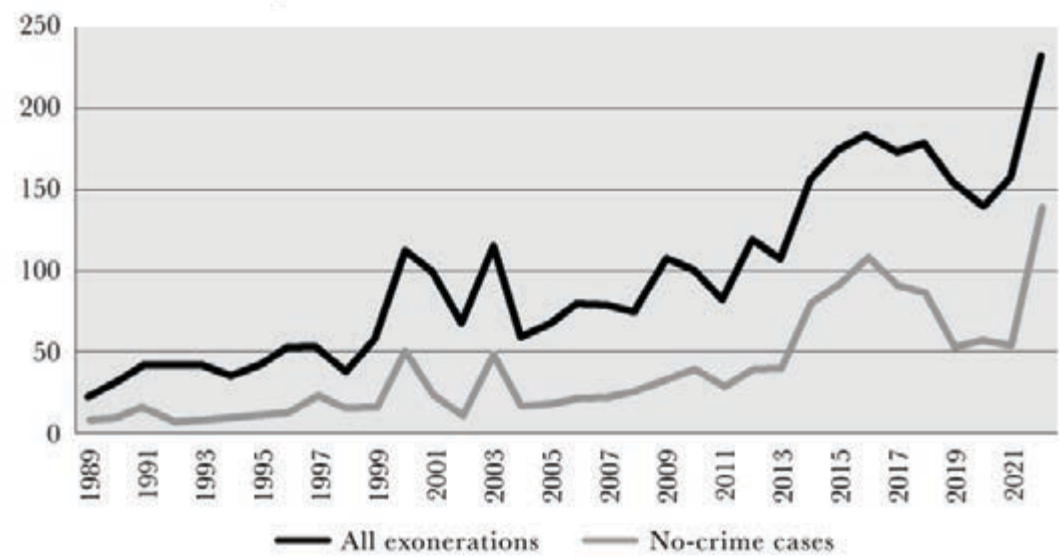
Continued on page 10



THE EXONERATED

In 2022, Exonerations Hit Record High in the U.S.

THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EXONERATIONS  
Figure 1: Exonerations From 1989–2022



By Jamiles Lartey

(The Marshall Project) - English legal scholar Sir William Blackstone famously wrote in 1765 that it’s “better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer.” It’s easily one of the most well-known and frequently cited maxims in modern law.

History is full of variations on this idea. While other examples often feature different ratios, the core concept reverberates through centuries and across cultures around the globe: It’s worse to punish innocent people than to let the guilty go free.

Today, a majority of Americans may not agree. In a series of recent surveys that polled more than 12,000 people, law professors Brandon Garrett and Gregory Mitchell found that more than 60% of Americans “consider false acquittals and false convictions to be equally bad outcomes,” and a “sizeable minority” viewed wrongful acquittals as worse than wrongful convictions. Mitchell and Garrett also found that in mock trials, those more concerned about wrongful acquittals than wrongful convictions were more than twice as likely to convict after viewing the same evidence.

If real-life jurors are bringing similar attitudes into actual trials, it may contribute to wrongful convictions, and hence, the need for exonerations. There were a record 238 exonerations in 2022, according to a database maintained by the National Registry of Exonerations.

Recently, I had the opportunity to share the story of Earline Brooks Colbert, whose brother and son — Elvis Brooks and Cedric Dent — accounted for two of those exonerations. Both men were convicted primarily on eyewitness identification, which contributes to an overwhelming majority of wrongful convictions, according to the legal-aid group the Innocence Project.

That was also the case for Jason Hogan, who was exonerated for a 2000 kidnapping and robbery in Colorado earlier this month. His lawyer said that while reinvestigating the case, it was discovered that police and prosecutors withheld exculpatory evidence, as is common in exoneration cases.

The day before Hogan’s release, 49-year-old Patrick Brown had a 29-year-old rape conviction vacated in a New Orleans courtroom. Brown had been charged with the rape of his stepdaughter, who has always maintained that Brown was not the man who abused her. “I’ve written over 100 letters... mailed them to the DA’s office. I’ve shown up unannounced to talk to someone and been

turned around,” she told the court.

Uriah Courtney, who was exonerated in 2013, spoke to The Appeal this week about the lasting trauma of the time he spent in prison on a wrongful conviction for kidnapping and rape. “I’ve got PTSD. Sometimes I’m still angry. I lost eight years of my life. Sometimes I think of what could have happened if I wasn’t arrested. What I was accused of could have gotten me killed in prison. I lived in fear daily,” Courtney told reporter Meg O’Connor.



Christopher Dunn

Like Courtney, Christopher Dunn was also convicted without any physical evidence, and the two eyewitnesses who tied Dunn to a 1990 St. Louis murder have since recanted. On Monday, then-St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner filed a motion to vacate Dunn’s conviction. As it turned out, it would be one of Gardner’s last acts in office, as she resigned the following day.

Weeks ago, Gardner announced that she would step down amid an effort by state legislators to remove her from office and reports of turmoil in her office. She had been expected to remain in the job until June. It’s unclear what Gardner’s departure means for Dunn. Gov. Mike Parson appointed former U.S. Attorney Gabe Gore to the job on Friday.

Dunn’s is the second conviction Gardner filed to have thrown out, the first being the well-known case of Lamar Johnson. For the majority of Gardner’s time in office, local Missouri prosecutors did not have the power to file motions to vacate convictions. In 2021, state lawmakers passed a bill changing that.

Meanwhile, Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx has had that power throughout her time in office and has used it. The county — home to Chicago — has now led the country in exonerations five years in a row. Indeed, Cook County accounted for about half of 2022’s record number of exonerations.

That’s largely due to Foxx’s efforts at tossing convictions tied to corrupt cops who extorted money from and planted drugs and guns on residents of the city’s Ida B. Wells housing projects, virtually all of whom were Black, for nearly a decade. Since 2017, 212 convictions tied to the officers have been overturned.

“Victims and their families will never be made whole,” Foxx told USA Today’s Grace Hauck, “But there’s something that is owed to them,” she said.

Foxx recently declared she would not be running for re-election. ★★★

Tragic details emerge about Lamar Johnson’s wrongful 25-year imprisonment as he’s freed in time for daughter’s wedding

By Rachel Dobkin

(The U.S. Sun) - A Missouri man has been exonerated and freed in time for his youngest daughter’s wedding after 25 years of wrongful imprisonment.

Lamar Johnson was convicted of first-degree murder in 1995 for the shooting of his friend Markus Boyd after an eyewitness picked him from a lineup.

He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole at the age of 21.

Boyd was fatally shot by two gunmen on his porch in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 30, 1994.

Johnson had an alibi for the time of the killing. He was with his then-girlfriend, Erika Barrow, for the entire night of the shooting, except for five minutes which is not long enough to even travel to the crime scene about three miles away.

But the police never spoke to Barrow.

Instead, they probed an eyewitness, Greg Elking, who was with Boyd that night and said two men attacked Boyd. Elking later picked Johnson out of a suspect lineup.

Elking said the men quickly went up the steps of the porch as Boyd and he were sitting together and shot his friend.

“It was the most horrifying thing I ever seen in my life,” he told 48 Hours. “The third shot, I kind of seen Markus’ soul just go.”

Elking’s testimony played a major role in Johnson’s conviction, CBS News reports.

Even though Elking later recanted his claims and two other men confessed to the crime after Johnson’s conviction, Johnson still remained in prison for decades.

“The problem is, I don’t know what else to do,” Johnson told 48 Hours during a 2021 prison interview. “I mean, what else is needed?”

UNDER PRESSURE

When talking to 48 Hours, Elking admitted that he never actually thought Johnson committed the crime, but that he felt pressured by investigators to pick someone.

Elking said he could only get a look at one of the attackers and he could only see his eyes because he was masked.

Elking didn’t identify Johnson in the lineup at first. In fact, he was shown the lineup three times before he picked Johnson.

He claimed at the time that he could identify Johnson just by the look of his eyes.

“You didn’t know at all, did you?” 48 Hours correspondent Erin Moriarty asked Elking.

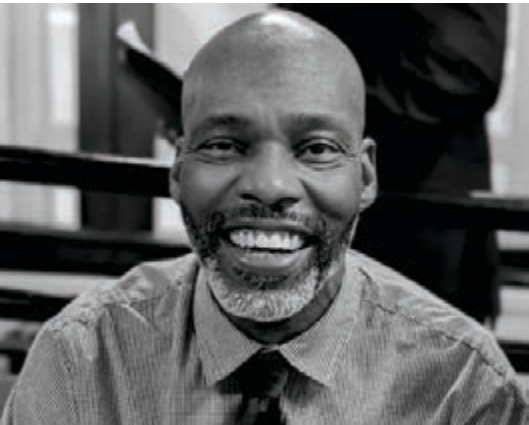
“I didn’t know,” Elking replied.

Elking said that he felt pressure from detectives to identify someone. And when he refused, he said investigators told him that his own life was in danger.

The investigators told Elking that Johnson was a violent man who may have been involved in as many as six other murders, Elking said.

However, the claims have never been proven, and Johnson has not been charged with any other murder.

Joseph Nickerson, the lead detective on the case, denied under oath that he pressured Elking into identifying Johnson.



Lamar Johnson

“I lied on the testimony,” Elking said. “I thought I was doing the right thing.”

REUNITED

Almost three decades after Johnson’s conviction, the Missouri man was granted an innocence hearing in December 2022 where Elking once again took the stand, this time in favor of Johnson.

Elking told the court that he lied under oath and could not identify Johnson.

James Howard, who also went by BA, a man from Boyd’s neighborhood testified that he and a friend were the real murderers.

Johnson was exonerated on February 14, 2023, and free to walk his youngest daughter, Kiera Barrow, down the aisle during her wedding on April 21.

Barrow, the daughter of Johnson and his then-girlfriend Erika, was just five months old when her father was imprisoned.

But the father and daughter duo were able to still form a relationship while Johnson was locked up.

“I think that, just despite everything that he has experienced, who he is and who he shows up as, it is just — it’s remarkable,” she told 48 Hours.



Lamar and his daughter at her wedding

Johnson told the outlet that he considers himself a blessed man.

“It was like a weight had just come off of me,” Johnson said a day after his release. “Just the vindication, just that somebody had finally heard me.”

Johnson got to finally meet his pen pal for the first time after he was freed, which was shown in a video from The Guardian.

For 25 years, Ginny Schrappen has exchanged letters with Johnson in prison, and when they finally got to meet, Schrappen started hugging and kissing him on the cheek immediately.

“Especially when somebody is innocent, you want someone to believe in you,” Johnson told The Guardian.

“And they won’t give up on you, then it makes it harder for you to give up on yourself.” ★★★



Many of the exonerees reported on herein would have never even been convicted in the first place had they utilized the services of the US~Observer.

When hired, the US~Observer works for your vindication. What does that mean? Simply, if you have been wrongfully charged with crimes or have been maliciously attacked civilly, the US~Observer will investigate your case to achieve the evidence that will be used to prove your innocence, or determine your lack of liability. With that evidence in hand, we ensure everyone who needs to see it does.

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And just in case you are wondering, there are many instances where our clients never even needed to hire an attorney in the first place. Contact us for references.

Contact the US~Observer! 541-474-7885 or editor@usobserver.com



# In The News

## WHAT THE?!

### 3 Kids Died in the Space of a Week — A Significant Spike Over Same Period the Year Before

By Evann Gastaldo

(NEWSER) - Three children died in hot cars in the United States over the last week of May, pushing the number of such deaths in 2023 to double the number over the same time period in 2022, NBC News reports. (This seminal 2009 article explains how such tragedies can happen accidentally, more easily than you might think.) The heartbreaking details:

- **Puyallup, Washington:** A 1-year-old was left in a car when the child's foster mother arrived at work at a hospital around 8am; authorities say she was distracted and forgot the toddler was in the backseat until she got back in the car around 5pm, KING 5 reports. Though the outside temperature was in the low 70s, inside the car it was 110 degrees, CNN reports. While the woman rushed the child into the hospital, the child did not survive.
- **Houston, Texas:** Two siblings, ages 2 and 4, were playing outside their home Friday when an adult found them inside a car. "We don't know how

long they were in there, but family members began looking and found them in the car," a police commander says, per Fox 26. Temperatures were in the 80s at the time. The 4-year-old boy was pronounced dead after being rushed to a hospital, but his sister was expected to recover.

- **Palm Bay, Florida:** An 11-month-old was discovered unresponsive in a car after having been left there for three hours; the infant's parents were attending church services at the time, and the details of the incident are not yet clear, but WESH reports it appears to have been accidental.

No charges have been filed in any of the deaths, and authorities say the investigations are ongoing.

**US~Observer Editor's Note: I believe, wholeheartedly, that there is no excuse to ever "forget" a child in a hot car. I truly believe it is a form of premeditated homicide. Now that the behavior is excused as accidental, leaving a child in a car is an "easy" way to get away with disposing a child you no longer want. ★★★**



### Nevada Democrats to Fine Schools \$5k Per Day for Banning Males from Girls Sports

By Paul Bois

(Breitbart) - Nevada Democrats passed a law that would penalize school boards that ban men from participating in women's sports and using women's locker rooms.

Passed Friday, the amendment will seek to fine schools \$5,000 per day if they ban men from participating in women's sports.

"The controversial amendment to penalize schools was reportedly only added after the first draft of Assembly Bill No. 423 already passed with unanimous, bipartisan support. The amendment to the bill received zero GOP votes, passing only with full Democratic support," reported Fox News.

Republican Nevada lawmaker Ira Hansen referred to the bill as the "Bud Light Amendment" prior to its passing without any hearing.

"Took a bill w/ unanimous support & dropped a floor #BudLightAmendment w/out any hearing at the last minute in the last waning days of the session fining NV school boards \$5k/day that try to block boys from girls' bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports," Hansen tweeted.

The text of the bill says that a school's "board of trustees shall not adopt a policy that limits the access of a pupil because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, familial status or sex, to school facilities or activities."



By Ciaran Lyons

(CoinTelegraph.com) - A New York attorney has been blasted for using ChatGPT for legal research as part of a lawsuit against a Columbian airline.

Steven Schwartz, an attorney with the New York law firm Levidow, Levidow & Oberman, was hired by Robert Mata to pursue an injury claim against Avianca Airlines.

Mata claims he sustained the injury from a serving cart during his flight with the airline in 2019, according to a May 28 report from CNN Business.

However, after a judge noticed inconsistencies and factual errors in the case documentation, Schwartz has admitted to using ChatGPT for his legal research, according to a May 24 sworn affidavit.

He claims that this was his first time using ChatGPT for legal research and "was unaware of the possibility that its content could be false."

In an April 5 court filing, the judge presiding over the case stated:

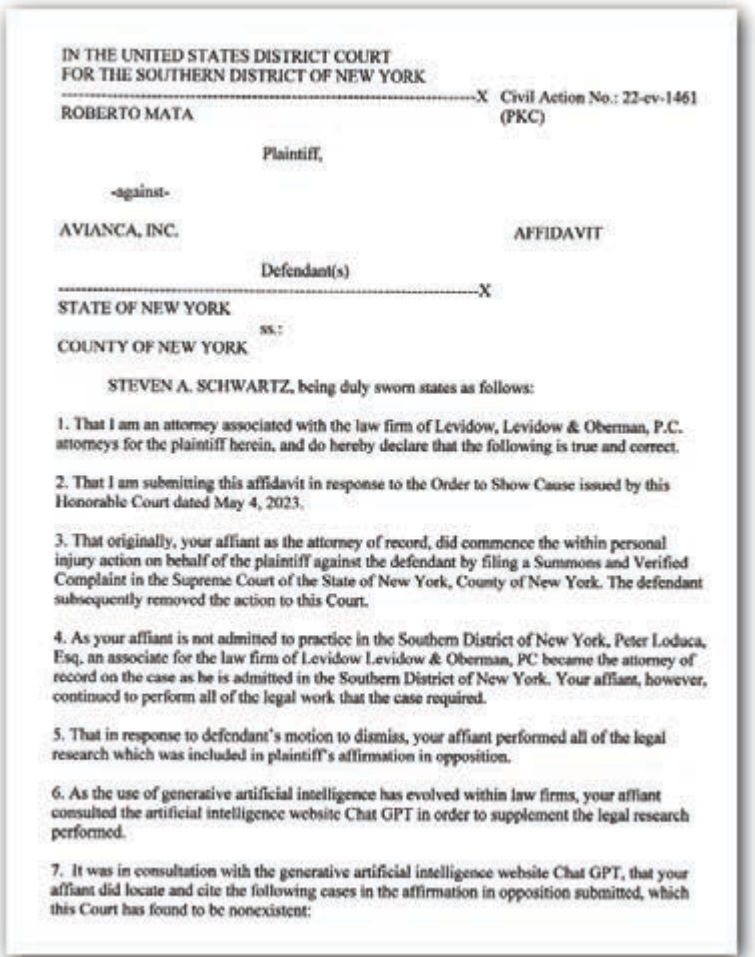
*"Six of the submitted cases appear to be bogus judicial decisions with bogus quotes and bogus internal citations."*

The judge further claimed that certain cases referenced in the submissions did not exist, and there was an instance where a docket number on a filing was mixed up with another court filing.

Schwartz said he also regrets having trusted the artificial chatbot without conducting his own due diligence. The affidavit noted:

*"[Schwartz] Greatly regrets having utilized generative artificial intelligence to supplement the legal research performed herein and will never do so in the future without absolute verification of its authenticity."*

In recent times there has been an ongoing debate regarding the extent to which ChatGPT can be integrated



into workforces.

However, reports indicate that the intelligence levels of ChatGPT are rapidly advancing.

But developers are skeptical about whether it has the potential to replace humans altogether.

Blockchain developer Syed Ghazanfer said while he favors ChatGPT, he is doubtful that it has the communication skills to completely replace human workers.

"For it to replace you, you have to communicate requirements which are not possible in native English. That's why we invented programming languages," he said. ★★★

### Ohio Judge Accused of Running 'Debtors' Prison' Faces Discipline

By Eric Heisig

(Bloomberg Law) - A longtime Ohio judge who "created a modern-day debtors' prison" when presiding over misdemeanor cases should be removed from the bench and have his law license suspended, disciplinary authorities told the state Supreme Court.

Stow Municipal Court Judge Kim Hoover treated the impoverished people who appeared before him as a burden, demeaning and ridiculing them and sometimes making statements with racial overtones, Ohio Disciplinary Counsel Joseph M. Caligiuri said during arguments Wednesday. He added that Hoover "has made a mockery of the judiciary."

"This is a judge that in each of these cases has basically created a modern-day debtors' prison by extorting payment from the most vulnerable people among us: the poor, the mentally ill, and the drug dependent," Caligiuri said during his oral argument. "He took these people's last pennies when he knew that they could not afford to do so without any regard for their due process rights."

Hoover's attorney George D. Jonson of Montgomery Jonson LLP told the justices that his client didn't act with bias against disadvantaged people. Rather, his actions were to fulfill the mandates for state sentencing laws, which include protecting the public and punishing the guilty.

"So [the board] found that he acted with bias and prejudice against poor people, but they credit his testimony that that his sentencing is about punishing the offender," Jonson said. "It's about righting their conduct."

Hoover, whose courtroom is in suburban Akron, has been a municipal court judge since 1995. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel filed its complaint in 2021.



Judge Kim Hoover

The state Board of Professional Conduct said in a report filed in February that Hoover committed 64 violations in cases involving 16 defendants. In each he either threatened to or followed through on doling out jail time to force defendants to pay fines and court fees, even though Ohio law doesn't allow judges to use criminal sanctions to force payment.

In one instance, Hoover had a man held in jail for seven days even though he hadn't paid a \$100 fine and court costs. The man should have served two days at most because defendants are supposed to be credited \$50 a day for unpaid fines, according to the board.

The board wrote that "this case is about money" and noted the disciplinary counsel's argument that it was all in service of funding the Stow Municipal Court. It recommended a two-year suspension and removal from the bench without pay during that time.

Hoover, who admitted to two violations, said he should be given a one-year suspension, with six months of it stayed. The Ohio Supreme Court has final say.

Justice R. Patrick DeWine was curious what distinguished Hoover's conduct from actions taken by judges across the state who alter sentences or end probation early if a defendant pays their costs and fines.

Justice Jennifer Brunner at one point zeroed in on a case, in which a defendant said he only had \$45 on him. Hoover told him "to get on the phone with mom and dad and grandma and ask them for birthday presents early," she recalled.

"Is that what a judicial officer, is that what they should be portraying in a courtroom?" she asked.

The case is *Disciplinary Counsel v. Hoover, Ohio*, No. 2023-0188. ★★★

### Prosecutors Say Miami-Dade Police Officer Scammed Federal Loan Program



By Izzy Kapnick


(Miami New Times) - In yet another case alleging federal loan fraud by a South Florida policeman, prosecutors claim a onetime Miami-Dade officer milked money from pandemic relief funds by submitting falsified documents about his company.

Federal prosecutors say that while on staff with the Miami-Dade Police Department, Samuel Harris Jr. obtained more than \$275,000 through fraudulent loan applications submitted to two federal programs tied to the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Harris is at least the third current or former South Florida police officer to face a pandemic-loan fraud charge since June 2022. Prosecutors filed the case against him less than two months after charging a City of Miami officer with a similar scheme.

Submitted through an Atlanta-based lender, Harris's application to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) falsely stated that his company Oregon Digital had ten employees and \$50,000 in monthly payroll obligations, prosecutors say. He backed up the application with an allegedly bogus payroll tax form, which helped him secure \$125,000 in PPP funds. ★★★





## Judge accused of extreme DUI is given ‘nothing’ plea deal



Judge Cele Hancock

**US~Observer Editor’s Note:** *This is a clear cut case of “us vs. them.” Meaning, there is no way a normal citizen would get such a sweetheart deal.*

By Amy Cutler

(3TV/CBS 5) Prescott, AZ - Yavapai County Superior Court Judge Cele Hancock took a plea deal Friday, pleading guilty to the lowest level DUI charge. Hancock was stopped by Prescott Police back in March and charged with extreme DUI. Her blood alcohol at the time was nearly three times the legal limit. Some in the community questioned the deal.

Hancock, her attorney and the city prosecutor all appeared in court by telephone. Judge Ronald Ramsey, who presided over the case, said he agreed because Hancock’s address and phone number had been circulated. In addition, the family court judge had received threats and had concerns for her safety.

In police body camera video, an officer pulls Hancock over for a traffic stop. “We got some reports that you were inside Safeway, and you were stumbling, and you got back in your vehicle,” the officer explained. “Have you been drinking today?” the officer asked.

“No,” Hancock responded. “You haven’t been drinking today?” the officer repeats. “Oh no,” she said.

Hancock changed her story five minutes later, admitting to drinking and driving. “Couple of hours ago,” Hancock said. “How much did you drink?” the officer asked. “Couple of glasses of wine,” she responded.

She failed a field sobriety test, then told the officers who she was. “I just feel bad; I just told that one; I’m a judge here. I’m just a person like anyone else,” Hancock said. She was given three different breathalyzer tests and had her blood drawn. Hancock was charged with extreme DUI. According to the police report, her blood alcohol that Sunday afternoon was 0.219.

Arizona’s Family Investigates spoke with over two dozen people who appeared before Judge Cele Hancock in family court, accusing her of acting inappropriately.

In court Friday, Hancock’s attorney provided an account of what happened. “While operating that motor vehicle, she prior to had consumed an intoxicating beverage, and that intoxicated beverage did impair her ability to operate the vehicle,” C. Kenneth Ray, Hancock’s attorney, said.

“DUI operating or in control of a vehicle with a .08 or more blood alcohol within two hours of driving a class 1 misdemeanor. What is your plea?” Judge Ramsey said. “Guilty, sir,” Hancock replied. That lesser charge means Hancock will spend just a day behind bars and pay a fine of \$1,650.

Arizona’s Family Investigates spoke with defense attorney Russ Richelsoph for perspective. He’s not affiliated with the case. “DUI

cases most of them end entering a plea agreement of some kind,” Richelsoph said.

Arizona’s Family Investigates asked Richelsoph what the community should make of this development. “I think it’s important to note that the judge, the police officers did cite her for DUI rather than letting her go,” he explained.

Since her arrest, Arizona’s Family Investigates has spoken with more than two dozen people who’ve gone before Judge Hancock and said she’s been inappropriate on the bench. Some of them were in court for the plea deal. “She should have own up and admitted she was in the wrong and accepted guilty to all the charges. She’s not different from anybody else,” Holly Dennison said. She appeared before Judge Hancock.

“That’s not the way the law should be here. That’s not justice,” Emma Thomas said. She had a family member appear before Hancock. “She’s skating on this, and it’s not right,” she continued.

Since her arrest, Hancock’s 200+ cases have been re-assigned. The Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct is investigating the case. Judge Hancock remains on non-judicial duty. As far as Arizona’s Family Investigates could determine, she continues to collect her \$164,000 yearly salary. “My fear is she’s going to return to the bench,” Fredrick Lembach said. He appeared before Hancock in court.

In court, we learned Judge Hancock is undergoing rehab. They didn’t discuss the specifics of that. Ray moved to have the case sealed before the hearing. The judge agreed to that, explaining in court that Hancock was concerned for her safety. However, he unsealed it after the plea deal was final.

Arizona’s Family Investigates contacted the City Prosecutor’s Office for comment, but haven’t received a response. They negotiated and ultimately agreed to the plea deal. ★★★

## Arizona drops charges against ASU student arrested for handing out the Constitution



Tim Tizon when arrested

By Rachel Culver

(The College Fix) - The state of Arizona has dropped all charges against former Arizona State University student Tim Tizon, the Liberty Justice Center, who represents Tizon, recently confirmed to The College Fix.

As an Arizona State University student and member of Young Americans for Liberty, Tizon was arrested and charged with criminal trespass in the third degree for distributing copies of the U.S. Constitution outside the ASU Memorial Union early last year.

“We’re glad the state has dropped the charges, but this never should have happened,” President Jacob Huebert of the Liberty Justice Center told The Fix via email.

“We are glad that these charges were dismissed against him, but we need Arizona State to change its policies to make it clear that you can exercise your free speech rights without worrying about getting arrested or having a [criminal] record,” he said.

Tizon, a student at the time of the incident, was arrested by the ASU Police Department on March 3, 2022.

A brief in his defense argued that the Arizona Forum Act defines all public areas of the ASU campus as public forums in which students are free to express their own message, even controversial ones.

Following his arrest, Tizon said through his attorneys:

“Universities are supposed to be the epicenter of the marketplace of ideas.

“ASU has let me down and every other student too by placing its bureaucracy ahead of our First Amendment rights.”

This week, Tizon said he was “elated” when he heard that Arizona dropped the charges.

“I was being wrongly prosecuted by the state of Arizona and Arizona State University for over a year just for handing out copies of the United States Constitution,” he told Fox News in an interview.

“Really it is just the university bureaucrats naming a policy because they didn’t agree with what I was handing out — the United States Constitution. They

will throw any policy in your face if they don’t agree with you,” Tizon added.

In 2016, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed two free speech bills prohibiting colleges and universities from restricting students to tiny speech spaces or “free speech zones.”

In addition, the act requires that any restrictions on the nature of speech must be “necessary to achieve a compelling governmental interest” and “the least restrictive means to further that compelling government interest.”

All witnesses who testified to Tizon’s actions confirmed that the table did not block pedestrians nor interfere with other groups, his attorneys had argued, adding



Tim Tizon

university officials disregarded their own policy, unlawfully restricting Tizon’s freedom of expression.

Tizon had been ordered to pay a fine and perform community service.

“Arizona State has used its speech and assembly restrictions to harass activists such as Tim for years,” JP Kirby, director of student rights at YAL, said in a statement.

“ASU officials showed how much more the school values its own bureaucratic processes than the freedom of its students. I’m glad to see the state acknowledge that Tim’s rights outweigh the school’s desire to prosecute a student trying to share the Constitution with his classmates,” Kirby said.

Huebert said the Liberty Justice Center has informed ASU that if it does not adapt its policies, the firm will file a lawsuit challenging ASU’s campus policies.

“We expect ASU to change its policies to make clear that all students can exercise their free-speech rights without fear of being arrested or charged with a crime,” Huebert told The Fix. ★★★

## Florida police officer accused of stealing dead man’s credit card



Officer Dianne Ferreira

By David K. Li

(NBC News) - A “cold-hearted” Florida police officer was arrested and accused of stealing a dead man’s credit card information and using it to make personal purchases, like fast food and eyelashes, authorities said Wednesday.

St. Cloud Police Officer Dianne Ferreira was taken into custody with her own handcuffs and booked on suspicion of theft of a credit card

with intent to use, credit card fraud of more than \$100 and use of ID of a dead person, Osceola County jail records showed.

Ferreira, 25, was on a routine call last month to a couple’s home outside Orlando where the husband had died, officials said. That’s where she allegedly took pictures of the dead man’s credit card and used the information to make purchases.

“You got to be a pretty cold-hearted person to go to someone’s house where her husband or her loved one has just passed away and going to start taking snap shots of a credit card,” Osceola County Sheriff Marc Cos Lopez told reporters. “That’s pretty cold, you know, pretty ruthless.”

Asked whether the suspect had any financial difficulties that could have prompted the \$450 credit card theft, Lopez rejected any excuses the former officer might have.

“There’s no excuse. I mean if you’re going to get your nails and eyelashes and you’re ordering food

from Wendy’s, I don’t think your eyelashes justify a need and a financial situation,” Lopez said.

Ferreira, who had been on the job since August 2021, has no criminal record.

“The information uncovered during this investigation shocked and appalled me,” St. Cloud Police Chief Douglas Goerke said. “It directly violated everything expected of our law enforcement officers.”

Goerke and Lopez said Wednesday that while the investigation is ongoing, they have no evidence the suspect swiped anyone else’s credit card information.

Ferreira was booked early Tuesday evening and released a little before 2:30 a.m. Wednesday after having posted a \$4,000 bond, a jail spokesperson said.

Jail records did not list Ferreira’s attorney, and she could not immediately be reached for comment. ★★★

## US~OBSERVER NOTE ON FALSE CHARGES:



False prosecutions are getting some well needed mainstream attention these days. Over the past 30 years, the US~Observer had been the lone voice exposing this rampant issue. Our successful vindications are the dismissal or acquittal of more than 5,000 charges. We have also resolved many civil issues. These are achievements no other group, lawyer or agency can claim.

In many cases, our clients haven’t needed the use of expensive attorneys, as our investigations and publication are used to expose the truth to the world. It is this exposure that this, otherwise beyond reproach, system fears, and it works well.

We hope that every innocent victim of a false prosecution finds justice, and if you are facing false charges, please contact us.

editor@usobserver.com  
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# Yamhill County, Oregon Assistant District Attorney Let Abuser Caleb Rogers Off the Hook

“Rogers tased her, beat her and dragged her by her hair...”

By Edward Snook  
Investigative Reporter

**Yamhill County, OR** – On February 1, 2023, a Yamhill County Grand Jury indicted thirty-one-year-old Caleb Baxter Rogers of serious crimes against Jill Dornon. The indictment came as the result of a Domestic Violence incident that occurred in January of 2022.

Dornon claims that on January 14, 2022, Rogers tazed her with her personal stun gun while smiling, hit her multiple times, threw her into a wall, and dragged her by the hair before throwing her into a concrete slab, fracturing her front tooth. When Dornon left Rogers, she claims he punished her by sending lewd images/videos of her to her father.

The Grand Jury indicted Rogers of the committing the following crimes: Assault in the Second Degree Constituting Domestic Violence, a Class B Felony, Strangulation Constituting Domestic Violence, a Class C Felony, Unlawful Use of a Stun Gun, a Class A Misdemeanor, and Assault in the Fourth Degree Constituting Domestic Violence, a



Caleb Baxter Rogers

Class A Misdemeanor.  
The Grand Jury determined that Rogers

“caused serious physical injury to Jill Dornon by propelling Jill’s head into a concrete slab, that he applied pressure to Jill’s throat, neck or chest which impeded her breathing or blood circulation, that he recklessly discharged an electrical stun gun against Jill and that he intentionally caused physical injury to Jill”.

The Yamhill County District Attorney’s Office and more specifically Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Arild B. Doerge is currently refusing to send Jill a copy of the police report and evidence such as her x-rays.

DDA Doerge has downgraded Rogers charges in a recent plea agreement offer to Misdemeanor charges, one charge was downgraded to 5H, with no jail time on that charge and DDA Doerge is refusing to take the case to trial after promising Dornon he would.

A US~Observer investigation has



DDA Arild B. Doerge

determined that Rogers committed the crimes the Grand Jury charged him with, and we have determined that he should have been charged with more serious charges.

Plea Bargains are reprehensible. They literally cheat the victim, in this case, Jill Dornon, while discouraging other victims to come forward. DDA Doerge is the one who offered the Plea Bargain, however, his boss, Yamhill County District Attorney (DA) Brad Berry is the responsible party.

It would be wise for DA Berry to keep a closer eye on the offensive plea bargains that his DDA’s offer. This one might just come back to bite him.

**Editor’s Note: Anyone with information on Caleb Baxter Rogers or the Yamhill County District Attorney’s Office is urged to contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885 or by email to editor@usobserver.com. ★★★**

# Guardian ad litem argues in federal case she had no duty to protect teen who committed suicide

By Juliette Fairley

**(St. Louis Record)** - The guardian ad litem of a child who committed suicide out of fear of being placed in her father’s custody filed a second motion to dismiss arguing she only had a duty to the court, not to protect the child from harm.

Plaintiff Cynthia Haynes sued GAL Jennifer Williams in the Eastern District of Missouri alleging the wrongful death of her daughter, Mikaela Haynes, who killed herself at 14 years old on Nov. 24, 2018.

At the time, Williams was the teen’s GAL.

“While there is no question that a Missouri GAL’s obligations are “duties” owed to the trial court, Plaintiff offers this court no legal basis to conclude that a GAL simultaneously owes a duty of care to a child in a custody case,” attorney Susan Dimond wrote in the defendant’s April 3 reply memorandum in



Mikaela Haynes

Mikaela’s father is incarcerated at the Farmington Correctional Facility in St. Francois County.

“The defense can play legal games and use words that absolve them of responsibility, but the human aspect of this dictates otherwise and that’s the problem we have is that Missouri citizens and parents want guardian ad litem to be accountable and to feel obligated to protect children in custody cases but the defense is basically just reaching out for something because they don’t have a defense,”

support of her motion for judgment on the pleadings.

As previously reported in the St. Louis Record, Haynes sued Williams alleging Williams failed to inform the Department of Family Services, law enforcement, and the court about allegations that Haynes’ soon-to-be ex-husband Charles Haynes, was sexually abusing Mikaela.

said Timothy W. Roldan, social worker, attorney, and St. Louis GAL.

Last year, U.S. Magistrate Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni denied Williams’ first motion to dismiss in Cynthia Haynes v. Williams.

“The mandated reporting act is very clear on who has to report abuse and neglect of a child, and that includes lawyers and especially the guardian ad litem because the guardian ad litem has access to more information than anybody about the child,” Roldan told the St. Louis Record. “So, how can Jennifer Williams argue that she had no duty to the child when the guardian ad litem is a mandated reporter?”

The mandated reporter requirement became effective on August 28, 2004, under RSMo 210.115.1.



GAL Jennifer Williams - YouTube screenshot

On April 6, Haynes’ attorney, Evita Tolu, filed a reply in opposition to dismissal arguing that Missouri law and a Jan. 2017 court order appointing Williams to serve as Mikaela’s guardian ad litem created a duty for Williams to protect Mikaela from harm.

The order states, “... the guardian ad litem is vested by the court with all the powers, privileges, and responsibilities necessary for the full and effective performance of her duties and obligation to the minor child, and as such, shall faithfully discharge those duties. If she’s in doubt at any time as to the scope or limitation of this duty, she may apply to the court on an emergency basis if necessary for clarification or ratification of the authority and her act as guardian ad litem.” ★★★

# Dozens of kids vanish in Cleveland area as police probe alarming trend



By Chris Eberhart

**(Fox News)** - Almost 30 children were reported missing in the Cleveland area over a two-week span at the start of May, which is something a local police chief said he has not seen in his 33-year career.

Newburgh Heights Police Chief John Majoy, who also serves as the board president of the volunteer nonprofit Cleveland Missing, told Fox News Digital that the number of 12- to 17-year-olds reported missing has remained at unprecedented levels throughout the month.

“There’s always peaks and valleys with missing persons, but this year it seems like an extraordinary year,” said Majoy, who heads a police department just outside of Cleveland.

“For some reason, in 2023, we’ve seen a lot more than we normally see, which is troubling in part because we don’t know what’s going on with some of these kids, whether they’re being trafficked or whether they’re involved in gang activity or drugs.”

Cleveland police recorded 27 juveniles under the age of 18 were reported missing between May 2 and May 16.

It is more likely a majority of cases are runaways versus abductions, Majoy said, but young teenagers are naive and susceptible to predators, who are “wolves in sheep’s clothing.”

Their disappearances do not make the news unless there is an Amber Alert, and their stories are not being shared on social media.

“It’s a silent crime that happens right under our noses,” he said. “The problem is where are they? Where do they go? They can be in a drug house or farmed to prostitution or caught up in drug

trafficking or gangs.”

This feeds into the cycle of crime in the greater Cleveland area.

When teenagers are desperate, they join gangs for protection, which leads to initiation crimes like carjackings and robberies, they sell their bodies, or they use drugs and become addicts, Majoy said.

What makes this issue more troubling is the lack of photos. Scrolling through Cleveland’s missing persons page, there are more blank squares with the words, “Photo not available,” than there are pictures of the missing person.

This creates all sorts of headaches for law enforcement, Majoy said. “Unless someone knows that person, then we’re not going to have any luck.”

On the flip side, if the family has photos, police can use social media and blast out messages to the public, which he said is law enforcement’s “greatest asset” in missing persons cases, to stockpile tips and potential leads.

Cleveland and the surrounding suburbs have a unique nonprofit called Cleveland Missing that is dedicated to providing support to families of missing persons, assist with searches for their loved ones, and help them cope with their emotions.

It was founded by Sylvia Colon and her cousin Gina DeJesus, who was abducted by kidnapper Ariel Castro in 2004 when she was 14.

“Every family’s experience is different, but there are some things that are the same for everybody,” Colon told Fox News Digital. “It’s first disbelief, blame. (Questions like) ‘What did we do wrong?’ ‘Did we miss something?’ ‘Oh my gosh, how are we going to find this person?’ ‘The not knowing what are we going to do.’

“As the days progress and becomes a case that’s not solved after a couple months to two years to three years, life happens too. Then you have this guilt of continuing to press forward and live your life while continuing your search.”

**To leave tips on missing persons in and around Cleveland, call 216-623-7697. ★★★**

# NYC child services staffer arrested for allegedly exposing himself during ‘predatory’ home visits

By Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

**(New York Post)** - A veteran staffer with the city’s Administration for Children’s Services was arrested for allegedly exposing himself to a parent twice during “predatory” home visits, officials announced June 1st, 2023.

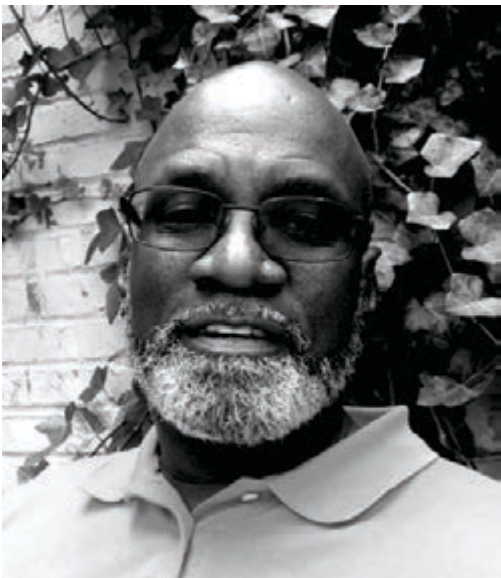
Harold Latour, 59, a child protective specialist with ACS, was charged with harassment and official misconduct following an internal investigation into the creepy 2021 home visitations, the city Department of Investigation said.

“This city child protective specialist used his access to vulnerable families as an opportunity to engage in illegal and sexually inappropriate conduct on more than one occasion,” DOI Commissioner Jocelyn Strauber said in a statement.

“His predatory conduct compromised the difficult and complex work of [Administration for Children’s Services] and his CPS colleagues, whose priority is protecting children and families,” Strauber said.

Latour, who joined the agency in 2011, is accused of wearing basketball shorts without underwear during welfare visits to a Queens home on Oct. 6, 2021, and Nov. 17, 2021, sitting down in front of the child’s mother and exposing himself, officials said.

Agency staffers are required to make periodic home visits to check on the welfare of children who are under ACS supervision due to past reports of neglect or abuse.



Harold Latour

In Latour’s case, the mother reported the two incidents to ACS the day after the second home visit, telling authorities that she felt threatened during the unsettling encounters.

Latour was placed on modified duty while the agency investigated the complaints.

The probe, which came to involve the Queens District Attorney’s Office, concluded this week with Latour’s arrest and the misdemeanor charges against him.

Latour, whose salary was \$64,000 last year, was suspended without pay.

He was arraigned in Queens Criminal Court on May 31st and released without bail.

Latour did not return a call from The Post and his lawyer declined to comment. ★★★



Continued from page 1 • Washington County Judge D. Charles Bailey Traffics Abused Child?

maternal grandparents, Ann and Dave Samuelson – Dave has legal custodial guardianship.

KM disclosed the abuse he’d suffered at the hands of his father, Terry, and grandmother, Connie, multiple times to mandatory reporters over the years. Many reports have been filed, and in an investigation conducted by the Oregon Office of Training, Investigations and Safety (OTIS) abuse was found to have been committed by Connie McCleary.

According to the OTIS Investigator, Katie Nelson (as quoted from the OTIS report):

“In speaking with KM, he shared the same concerns of physical abuse and sexual abuse by his father. He has written numerous times and shared with OTIS that no one has told him

what to say and what he has shared is the truth from his own experience. In his first meeting with OTIS, he reported Connie and Terry McCleary both touched his penis in the bathroom and bedroom of the McCleary’s residence.

“... Based on the substantial evidence obtained throughout this investigation, there is strong evidence to support the allegation Connie McCleary sexually abused KM over several years while he was in her care. He has made consistent disclosures over six years to various individuals, been diagnosed with PTSD related to childhood abuse, and demonstrated severe trauma reactions related to Connie; therefore, the allegation of sexual abuse by Connie McCleary to KM will be closed as FOUNDED.”

It is important to note that OTIS was only investigating claims against Connie McCleary and was not authorized to make any findings against Terry McCleary. It has been reported that OTIS was aware of reports made to DHS regarding allegations against Terry McCleary.

Yet here is the state, through the Washington County Family Court, pushing to force KM to have regular contact with the father, something KM is firmly against as clearly shown in these excerpts from a letter written by KM, as quoted in the OTIS report:

“... I really want somebody to start listening to me about how people to believe what my dad did and ‘why can’t I see my other therapist’. And I think my dad is dangerous which is the reason I don’t want him to be around me.”

Ann Samuelson said, “He [KM] already suffers from diagnosed PTSD because of everything he’s endured.” Her frustrations have mounted as evidence of the abuse has been totally and factually ignored by not only corrupt Clatsop County District Attorney (DA) Ron Brown, whose office received the numerous reports of abuse and the founded complaint, but Judge Bailey’s court as well as it moves forward with the custody case.

One of the ignored reports includes one taken on 10/19/2019, when Clatsop County Sheriff Detective, Jodi Libertad, investigated an incident involving then 10-year-old KM. The report is heavily redacted. It reads in part:

“... he made disclosures about the time he spent with his dad in February of this year. ... disclosed during the night previously mentioned he was in bed alone with his father ... said his father was talking gross and doing gross things. ... said his father was touching him and while he said this, pointed towards his penis. ... said his dad got close up to him. ... described ... how his father’s penis was erect. ... told his dad had to go to the bathroom to ‘beat it.’”

Libertad noted that she “contacted the DHS Child Abuse Hotline and made a report.” The detective further stated the report was being forwarded to DHS and the Astoria Police Department.

Why was this and all the other reports not followed up on with criminal charges? Again, the only one who can answer that is DA Ron Brown.

The Samuelson’s have cared for KM since he came to live with them full-time in 2019 after the allegations of abuse surfaced and their own daughter, KM’s mother, “disappeared into her addictions.” Their care has been instrumental in KM’s growing confidence and well-being. Ann has said she believes the court is acting like child traffickers, “especially with the latest ruling where Judge Bailey is forcing us to get a \$10,000 bond to make us comply with visitations between [KM] and his father.” Judge Bailey even went a bit further and suggested he’d be willing to be the “bad guy” and send KM back to his father if the grandparents didn’t comply with his dictates. The grandparents viewed this as a threat to pay up or Judge Bailey is moving the boy to those KM has identified as his abusers. The fact remains, KM is now a 14-year-old and has made it clear that he is not going to be forced by anyone to be with those who he claims to have sexually and physically molested him.

Ann went on, “After these experiences we believe there is absolutely an extreme bias against us, and more importantly a bias that threatens the safety, well-being, and best interest of our grandson.”

What depraved judge orders grandparents, who are trying to protect their grandchild from those who allegedly abused him, to pay for a \$10k bond in an attempt to force them to give that child back to the alleged abuser for visits? Judge D. Charles Bailey, that’s who. Bailey, in 2019 as presiding judge, resigned his position because he couldn’t handle a new, woman chief justice telling him what to do, and in good, old, narcissistic fashion tried to spin it and make her look bad in his resignation letter:

“... you deserve to have a Presiding judge that you have faith in and will not feel the need to micro-manage. This resignation will give you the opportunity to hopefully find that judge.”

In KM’s case, Judge Bailey is obviously not following the tenets set down by the OJD to guide his decision-making process. These principles are posted on their website and are titled, Factors a Judge Will Consider (how KM’s case relates to



Terry McCleary



Connie McCleary

(Multiple expert counselors and psychologists believe Terry McCleary physically and sexually abused KM. According to these experts, McCleary does not care for KM’s best interest and allows his mother Connie and - according to the federal suit filed - registered sex offender Thomas “Worm” Hayes, to have access to KM, clearly showing his lack of regard for KM’s safety and well-being.)

• **The emotional ties between the child and other family members**  
(In KM’s case, KM’s emotions regarding his father are fear and anxiety.)

• **The interest of the parents in and attitude toward the child**

(KM has stated he will not comply with any order forcing him to reunify. He has expressed himself to all who will listen, he wants nothing to do with his father.)

• **The abuse of one parent by the other**  
(What about alleged abuse by the parent on the child?)

• **The preference for the primary caregiver of the child, if the caregiver is deemed fit by the court**

(KM prefers to live with Ann and Dave Samuelson, his current custodial guardians, and has made this known to each of the attorneys who have been appointed to represent him.)

• **The willingness and ability of each parent to facilitate and encourage a close and continuing relationship between the other parent and the child**

(KM should not be encouraged to have a relationship with someone who allegedly sexually and emotionally abuses him.)

• **A judge cannot give custody to a parent just because the parent is the mother or father of the child. Also, the judge will consider the conduct, marital status, income, social environment or lifestyle of a parent only if it is shown that those factors are causing or may cause emotional or physical harm to the child.**  
(Conduct and lifestyle are imperative in KM’s case.)

And then there is the law to consider. ORS 107.137 states:

“However, the court may not consider such willingness and ability if one parent shows that the other parent has sexually assaulted or engaged in a pattern of behavior of abuse against the parent or a child and that a continuing relationship with the other parent will endanger the health or safety of either parent or the child.”

Clearly, according to the above guidelines and state law, Judge Bailey should rule that KM should remain with Ann and Dave Samuelson. Instead, Bailey is striking evidence of the abuse from the record, as requested by KM’s own court-appointed attorney, Amy Velazquez. These actions by those who are tasked with protecting KM should be considered criminal.

Speaking about Judge Bailey and KM’s attorney, Ann stated, “Amy Velazquez, asked Judge Bailey to order us, as grandparents, to pay 40% of her attorney fees. Terry McCleary’s attorney, Phillip Jones, quickly asked that this be retroactive. It was clear to us, this had been discussed prior to this hearing. Judge Bailey, with no discussion or questions from us, ordered it.” Ann continued, “We got to our car after the hearing and had a bill in our email for almost \$5,000.00. Our grandson had only ever been seen once by his attorney, and that was in April of 2022. The abusers of our grandson have spent far more time with his attorney than he has, just as they have done with 3 of the 4 attorneys KM has had. They have strongly influenced each of KM’s attorneys. This whole thing is one big racket and we have often wondered if both Clatsop and Washington County are involved in the kids for cash scheme.”

The Samuelson’s opinions are shared by many, including KM’s federal civil rights attorney Robert Parker, himself a victim of systemic abuse.

Mr. Parker has filed a \$150-million federal civil rights lawsuit for KM citing intentional infliction of emotional distress, and violations of the 14th Amendment, among other claims. He is also seeking an emergency injunction to stop the family court case from moving forward.

When asked about the suit he filed, Mr. Parker replied, “I usually don’t comment on ongoing litigation, but this boy needs immediate help. I mean, in what reality does forcing an abused child to be in the custody of his abuser make sense or seem like it would be in the best interest of the child? I have filed suit against those parties that have wronged or failed this boy.”

These parties include KM’s abusers – his father and his father’s mother; Clatsop County Child Protective Services (CPS); Clatsop District Attorney’s Office and Ron Brown individually, who has refused to prosecute multiple charges of abuse, for years – which could be related to a political fight that DA Ron Brown had with Ann Samuelson; Washington County Judge D. Charles Bailey, in his official capacity, for his willful disregard of the abuse allegations; pediatrician Charlene Sabin, who reportedly determined KM’s abuse as being “historical” and nothing the court should consider when determining custody (more on Sabin below); KM’s previous court-

these factors are in parenthesis):

appointed attorney, Peter Bunch, who rather than admitting his lack of representation and relationship with KM, slandered the Samuelsons to the court; Phillip Jones of Goldberg Jones in Portland, Oregon who represents Terry McCleary in the custody suit who is “putting forth arguments to the court which it appears upon information and belief he has failed to properly investigate ... to the detriment of the minor child”; present court-appointed counsel to KM, Amy Velazquez, who according to those involved, has never represented KM’s best interest and has sought to cover-up the abuse by requesting that it be stricken from the record. Further, it has been reported that Velazquez has even tried to interfere with Robert Parker filing the federal suit on behalf of KM.

“It is a racket, and none of these people should be making decisions for this child, or for that matter any other child,” Parker asserted.



Charlene Sabin

the guise that reuniting with the abusive father would be good for KM’s well-being. Imagine trying to tell a rape victim that they have to live with their rapist because it’s good for them, but that is literally what Sabin was selling the court, and the court literally lapped it up. Sick.

Sabin is known for over-inflating her credentials and even claiming to offer psychological services when she is not a licensed psychologist (she has since removed those services from her website when she was challenged in court on a separate case) – Google her name and read reviews about her practice. It has been reported that Charlene Sabin sides with the party that pays her, to the point that she disregards facts, and just as with KM’s case, tries to spin the court in her client’s favor. In fact, so many parties have reached out to us regarding Sabin’s involvement in their custody cases, the US~Observer is currently investigating Dr. Sabin. Turn to Page 1 of this edition to read our cursory findings on the doctor in the article, “‘Behavioral Pediatrician’ Charlene Sabin Shouldn’t be Trusted by Any Court”. One thing is sure, our investigation is just getting started and it’s already not looking good for the “doctor”.

After Parker filed his federal suit, KM’s father filed a motion in the family court for immediate custody and attorney’s fees,

suggesting that the grandparents were just intervenors unwilling to follow court orders. When, in reality, Dave and Ann Samuelson are the only people protecting KM from those who would “sexually, physically and emotionally harm him,” and a court system that has enabled those reported abusers.

Perhaps Clatsop County District Attorney Ron Brown should dust off those eight pending charges of physical and sexual abuse against Terry McCleary and give KM’s father the criminal trial he deserves. But Brown is a bad prosecutor who has targeted numerous innocent people for prosecution in the past, instead of truly guilty parties. No one knows that better than Dave Samuelson, who himself

was wrongly pursued by Brown. It’s a case the US~Observer reported on to its rightful and just conclusion – innocent. Because of his inaction, it is clear Brown has hopped into bed with alleged rapists and abusers.

Brown deserves to lose his position, and the citizens of Clatsop County need to take notice that Brown is not interested in justice, especially for those who are the most vulnerable. He is factually every bit as depraved as Judge D. Charles Bailey!

It is a fact that a criminal trial and conviction would literally set KM free, once and for all, to live his life without the fear of being abused by both his family and a court system who ignores his pleas for help. Until that day, those that love KM plan to fight for him however they can. They hold out hope that the federal courts will stand up and take notice of this unprecedented miscarriage of justice and abuse. That would be in the best interest of this child, and that is what this is all supposed to be about.

The US~Observer would like all those involved to know that we will ensure the public is aware of what is going on and who is doing it, in hopes that this boy’s abuse ends, and he is allowed to stay unmolested by a justice system that is all too eager to hand him back to Terry McCleary, a man who himself should have been prosecuted long ago.

**Editor’s Note: This case is a disgusting miscarriage of justice, malpractice, and systemic abuse. KM deserves to feel safe and remain with his loving and responsible grandparents, Ann and Dave Samuelson.**

**Anyone with information on, or photographs of, any of the individuals in this article contact the US~Observer immediately at 541-474-7885, or by sending an email to editor@usobserver.com.**

**Lastly, tell these people to do what is right by KM and let him stay with the Samuelsons!!!**

Reach out to Judge Bailey:

Phone: 503-846-8888 ext. 70595  
Email: D.Charles.BAILEY@ojd.state.or.us

Reach out to Ron Brown:

Phone: 503-325-8581  
Email: da@ClatsopCounty.gov



COMMENTARY

Your Right to Speak Out



By John & Nisha Whitehead

**(The Rutherford Institute)** - We're not living the American dream.

We're living a financial nightmare. The U.S. government is funding its existence with a credit card.

The government — and that includes the current administration — is spending money it doesn't have on programs it can't afford, and "we the taxpayers" are the ones being forced to foot the bill for the government's fiscal insanity.

According to the number crunchers with the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the government is borrowing roughly \$6 billion a day.

As the Editorial Board for the Washington Post warns:

*"The nation has reached a hazardous moment where what it owes, as a percentage of the total size of the economy, is the highest since World War II. If nothing changes, the United States will soon be in an uncharted scenario that weakens its national security, imperils its ability to invest in the future, unfairly burdens generations to come, and will require cuts to critical programs such as Social Security and Medicare. It is not a future anyone wants."*

Let's talk numbers, shall we? The national debt (the amount the federal government has borrowed over the years and must pay back) is \$31 trillion and will grow another \$19 trillion by 2033. That translates to roughly \$246,000 per taxpayer or \$94,000 for every single person in the country.

The bulk of that debt has been amassed over the past two decades, thanks in large part to the fiscal shenanigans of four presidents, 10 sessions of Congress and two wars.

It's estimated that the amount this country owes is now 130% greater than its gross domestic product (all

the products and services produced in one year by labor and property supplied by the citizens).

In other words, the government is spending more than it brings in.

The U.S. ranks as the 12th most indebted nation in the world, with much of that debt owed to the Federal Reserve, large investment funds and foreign governments, namely, Japan and China.

Interest payments on the national debt are estimated to top \$395 billion this year, which is significantly more than the government spends on veterans' benefits and services, and according to Pew Research Center, more than it will spend on elementary and secondary education, disaster relief, agriculture, science and space programs, foreign aid, and natural resources and environmental protection combined.

According to the Committee for a Reasonable Federal Budget, the interest we've paid on this borrowed money is *"nearly twice what the federal government will spend on transportation infrastructure, over four times as much as it will spend on K-12 education, almost four times what it will spend on housing, and over eight times what it will spend on science, space, and technology."*

In ten years, those interest payments will exceed our entire military budget.

This is financial tyranny.

We've been sold a bill of goods by politicians promising to pay down the national debt, jumpstart the economy, rebuild our infrastructure, secure our borders, ensure our security, and make us all healthy, wealthy and happy.

None of that has come to pass, and yet we're still being loaded down with debt not of our own making while the government remains unrepentant, unfazed and undeterred in its wanton spending.

Indeed, the national deficit (the difference between what the government spends and the revenue it takes in) remains at more than \$1.5 trillion.

If Americans managed their personal finances the way the government mismanages the nation's finances, we'd all be in debtors' prison by now.

Despite the government propaganda being peddled by the politicians and news media, however, the government isn't spending our tax dollars to make our lives better.

We're being robbed blind so the governmental elite can get richer.

In the eyes of the government, "we the people, the voters, the consumers, and the taxpayers" are little more than pocketbooks waiting to be picked.

"We the people" have become the new, permanent underclass in America.

Consider: The government can seize your home and your car (which you've bought and paid for) over nonpayment of taxes. Government agents can freeze and seize your bank accounts and other valuables if they merely "suspect" wrongdoing. And the IRS insists on getting the first cut of your salary to pay for government programs over which you have no say.

We have no real say in how the government runs, or how our taxpayer funds are used, but we're being forced to pay through the nose, anyhow.

We have no real say, but that doesn't prevent the government from fleecing us at every turn and forcing us to pay for endless wars that do more to fund the military industrial complex than protect us, pork barrel projects that produce little to nothing, and a police state that serves only to imprison us within its walls.

If you have no choice, no voice, and no real options when it comes to the government's claims on your property and your money, you're not free.

It wasn't always this way, of course.

Early Americans went to war over the inalienable rights described by philosopher John Locke as the natural rights of life, liberty and property.

It didn't take long, however — a hundred years, in fact — before the American government was laying claim to the citizenry's property by levying taxes to pay for the Civil War. As the New York Times reports, *"Widespread resistance led to its repeal in 1872."*

Determined to claim some of the



citizenry's wealth for its own uses, the government reinstituted the income tax in 1894. Charles Pollock challenged the income tax as unconstitutional, and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor. Pollock's victory was relatively short-lived. Members of Congress — united in their determination to tax the American people's income — worked together to adopt a constitutional amendment to overrule the Pollock decision.

On the eve of World War I, in 1913, Congress instituted a permanent income tax by way of the 16th Amendment to the Constitution and the Revenue Act of 1913. Under the Revenue Act, individuals with income exceeding \$3,000 could be taxed starting at 1% up to 7% for incomes exceeding \$500,000.

It's all gone downhill from there.

Unsurprisingly, the government has used its tax powers to advance its own imperialistic agendas and the courts have repeatedly upheld the government's power to penalize or jail those who refused to pay their taxes.

While we're struggling to get by, and making tough decisions about how to spend what little money actually makes it into our pockets after the federal, state and local governments take their share (this doesn't include the stealth taxes imposed through tolls, fines and other fiscal penalties), the government continues to do whatever it likes—levy taxes, rack up debt, spend outrageously and irresponsibly—with little thought for the plight of its citizens.

To top it all off, all of those wars

the U.S. is so eager to fight abroad are being waged with borrowed funds. As The Atlantic reports, "U.S. leaders are essentially bankrolling the wars with debt, in the form of purchases of U.S. Treasury bonds by U.S.-based entities like pension funds and state and local governments, and by countries like China and Japan."

Of course, we're the ones who have to repay that borrowed debt.

For instance, American taxpayers have been forced to shell out more than \$5.6 trillion since 9/11 for the military industrial complex's costly, endless so-called "war on terrorism." That translates to roughly \$23,000 per taxpayer to wage wars abroad, occupy foreign countries, provide financial aid to foreign allies, and fill the pockets of defense contractors and grease the hands of corrupt foreign dignitaries.

Mind you, that's only a portion of what the Pentagon spends on America's military empire.

The United States also spends more on foreign aid than any other nation, with nearly \$300 billion disbursed over a five-year period. More than 150 countries around the world receive U.S. taxpayer-funded assistance, with most of the funds going to the Middle East, Africa and Asia. That price tag keeps growing, too.

As Forbes reports, "U.S. foreign aid dwarfs the federal funds spent by 48 out of 50 state governments annually. Only the state governments of California and New York spent more federal funds than what the U.S. sent abroad each year to foreign countries."

Continued on page 12



By Billy Binion

**(Reason)** - When local bureaucrats in Hennepin County, Minnesota, seized an elderly woman's home over a small tax debt, sold it, and kept the profit, they likely had no idea they would set in motion a series of events that would cripple the practice known as "home equity theft" across the country.

Yet that's what happened. The Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously ruled that the government violated the Constitution when it took possession of Geraldine Tyler's condo over an overdue property tax bill, auctioned the home, and pocketed the proceeds in excess of what she actually owed.

Tyler, who is now 94 years old, purchased the Minneapolis-area condo in 1999. But a series of events, including a neighborhood shooting, prompted her to relocate to a retirement community in 2010, at which point it became difficult for her to pay both her new rent and the property taxes on her former home. She accrued a \$2,300 tax bill, which turned into an approximately \$15,000 bill after the government added on \$13,000 in penalties, interest, and fees. Local officials then sold the home for \$40,000—and kept the remaining

The County Sold Her Home Over Unpaid Taxes and Kept the Profit. SCOTUS Wasn't Having It.

\$25,000.

Tyler spent years arguing that such a taking was unconstitutional. But despite the case appearing fairly black and white from the outset, she had no such luck in the lower courts. When her case went before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, its ruling was also unanimous—in favor of the government. *"Where state law recognizes no property interest in surplus proceeds from a tax foreclosure-sale conducted after adequate notice to the owner, there is no unconstitutional taking,"* wrote Judge Steven Colloton.

The Supreme Court forcefully overturned that decision today. *"A taxpayer who loses her \$40,000 house to the State to fulfill a \$15,000 tax debt has made a far greater contribution to the public fisc than she owed,"* wrote Chief Justice John Roberts for the Court. *"The taxpayer must render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, but no more."*

At the heart of the case is the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment, which stipulates that "private property [shall not] be taken for public use without just compensation." In explaining the justices' decision, Roberts traced the spirit of the law back to the Magna Carta, then to English law, and ultimately to the States, buttressed by several Supreme Court precedents which, as Roberts wrote, *"have also recognized the principle that a taxpayer is entitled to the surplus in excess of the debt owed."*

Tyler is far from the only victim of this practice. Home equity theft is legal in

Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, and the District of Columbia, although today's ruling should hamstring those forfeiture schemes.

How home equity theft has been executed across those states varies widely, although the life-wrecking consequences remain consistent. In Nebraska, for example, local governments sell tax debt to private investors behind a homeowner's back. The homeowner eventually receives a letter, after three years have gone by, giving them 90 days to satisfy the full tax burden, which has continued accruing over those three years, along with 14 percent interest and additional fees. Over those three years, the debtor does not receive notification from the government of his ballooning debt, as the private investor quietly continues satisfying it.

In 2013, for example, Kevin Fair of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, quit his job to become the full-time caretaker to his wife, Terry, who had been diagnosed with a debilitating form of multiple sclerosis. Without a steady source of income other than Social Security, he fell \$588 behind on his property taxes. When he finally received notice from Continental Resources, the private investor that covertly bought out his debt, he could not afford the total, which



came out to \$5,268.

His house, however, is worth \$60,000, and Continental Resources told him it intended to take the whole shebang. *"In Nebraska...people are shocked about how the law actually operates,"* Jennifer Gaughan, chief of legal strategy at Legal Aid of Nebraska, told me in January. *"It's usually elderly people...people who own their homes outright who don't have a mortgage, and there's usually some kind of intervening situation."* In Kevin Fair's case, it was his wife's illness. She has since died.

Prior to oral arguments before the Supreme Court last month, a cross-ideological coalition of organizations assembled in favor of Tyler. Few things are transpartisan these days. But it took a 94-year-old woman and a nearly 10-year crusade to establish the obvious: that the government should not be able to steal home equity from its own citizens. ★★★



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." --Martin Luther King, Jr.

# COMMENTARY



By Daisy Luther

(The Organic Prepper) - Imagine this...

*A woman, for the sake of my story, is in a marriage with a partner who does not respect her. He insults her regularly, belittles her efforts to improve herself or her situation, and minimizes her feelings.*

*In fact, when she tries to stand up for herself, things get even worse. The partner calls into question her memories of the event. He dismisses the way things made her feel, calling the emotions “ridiculous” or “stupid.” He convinces her she’s overreacting and that he was only trying to do what was best for her. When she brings something up, he completely rewrites the event, causing her to doubt what actually happened because she’s in a vulnerable state due to the constant abuse.*

*In a situation like this, the abused partner often feels powerless, confused, and unable to leave the situation. They are at a disadvantage because they’ve been influenced to doubt their own reality. This leaves them trapped deeper and deeper in the abusive scenario. They feel unable to escape because they’re really not sure what actually happened. Were they blowing things out of proportion? Are they, in fact, stupid, forgetful, and inept?*

Abusive relationships follow a pattern. There’s a period of breaking the victim down, isolating them from their support systems, and making them dependent on the abuser. Then, the abused partner is maneuvered into the belief that she can’t get by on her own.

This master manipulation is how people become trapped in abusive relationships.

And, as I’m about to show, not all abusive relationships are one-on-one romantic relationships.

### WHAT IS GASLIGHTING?

Medical News Today defines gaslighting:

*Gaslighting is a form of psychological abuse in which a person or group causes someone to question their own sanity, memories, or perception of reality. People who experience gaslighting may feel*

*confused, anxious, or as though they cannot trust themselves.*

The term “gaslighting” comes from the 1944 classic film (and before that, the play), *Gaslight*. In the story, a husband tries to make his wife believe she is suffering from a mental illness. Starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer, it’s well worth a watch.

Gaslighting is a form of narcissistic abuse.

Forbes offers the following signs you are being gaslit:

#### Signs to watch for include:

**The “Twilight Zone” effect.** Victims of gaslighting often report feeling like a situation is surreal—like it’s happening on a different plane from the rest of their life.

**Language describing you or your behavior as crazy, irrational or overemotional.** “*When I asked women about their partners’ abusive tactics, they often described being called a ‘crazy bitch.’*” Sweet writes in “The Sociology of Gaslighting” in American Sociological Review. “*This phrase came up so frequently, I began to think of it as the literal discourse of gaslighting.*”

**Being told you’re exaggerating. Feeling confused and powerless after leaving an interaction.**

**Isolation.** Many gaslighters make efforts to isolate victims from friends, family and other support networks.

**Tone policing.** A gaslighter may criticize your tone of voice if you challenge them on something. This is a tactic used to flip the script and make you feel that you’re the one to blame, rather than your abuser.

**A cycle of warm-cold behavior.** To throw a victim off balance, a gaslighter may alternate between verbal abuse and praise, often even in the same conversation.

Gaslighting is a deliberate attempt to provoke self-doubt, confusion, and dependence.

### HOW DOES SOMEONE GASLIGHT ANOTHER PERSON?

Again, let’s look to the experts. Medical News Today provides these examples of how gaslighting might take place:

**Countering:** This is when someone questions a person’s memory. They may say things such as, “Are you sure about that? You have a bad memory,” or “I think you are forgetting what really happened.”



**Withholding:** This involves someone pretending they do not understand the conversation, or refusing to listen, to make a person doubt themselves. For example, they might say, “Now you are just confusing me,” or “I do not know what you are talking about.”

**Trivializing:** This occurs when a person belittles or disregards how someone else feels. They may accuse them of being “too sensitive” or overreacting in response to valid and reasonable concerns.

**Denial:** Denial involves a person refusing to take responsibility for their actions. They may do this by pretending to forget what happened, saying they did not do it, or blaming their behavior on someone else.

**Diverting:** With this technique, a person changes the focus of a discussion by questioning the other person’s credibility. For example, they might say, “That is just nonsense you read on the internet. It is not real.”

**Stereotyping:** An article in the American Sociological Review says that a person may intentionally use negative stereotypes about someone’s gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, or age to gaslight them. For example, they may say that no one will believe a woman if she reports abuse.

After a period of time, this emotional barrage results in the target of the gaslighting suffering from confusion, doubt, and self-blame.

- feeling uncertain of their perceptions
- frequently questioning if they are remembering things correctly
- believing they are irrational or “crazy”
- feeling incompetent, unconfident, or worthless
- constantly apologizing to the abusive person
- defending the abusive person’s behavior to others
- becoming withdrawn or isolated from others

The Forbes article offered these specific examples of gaslighting in romantic relationships:

“Ebony’s partner would steal her money and then tell her she was ‘careless’ about finances and had lost it herself.”

“Adriana’s boyfriend hid her phone and then told her she had lost it, in a dual effort to confuse her and prevent her from communicating with others.”

“Jenn described her ex-boyfriend as a ‘chameleon’ who made up small stories to confuse her, like lying about what color shirt he had worn the day before to make her feel disoriented.”

“Emily described her ex-husband stealing her keys so she could not leave the house and then insisting she had lost them ‘again.’”

But if you think this phenomenon is limited to women being abused by their husbands or boyfriends, you’d be wrong.

### GASLIGHTING DOESN’T JUST HAPPEN IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Gaslighting is a complicated thing. While it’s common in abusive romantic relationships, it can also occur in unhealthy parent-child relationships, sibling relationships, or even workplaces. But that’s not all. It can also occur on a much broader scale.

#### RACIAL GASLIGHTING

According to an article in Politics, Group, and Identities, racial gaslighting is when people apply gaslighting techniques to an entire racial or ethnic group in order to discredit them. For example, a person or institution may say that an activist campaigning for change is irrational or “crazy.”

#### POLITICAL GASLIGHTING

Political gaslighting occurs when a political group or figure lies or manipulates information to control people, according to an article in the Buffalo Law Review.

For example, the person or political party may downplay things their administration has done, discredit their opponents, imply that critics are mentally unstable, or use controversy to deflect attention away from their mistakes.

#### INSTITUTIONAL GASLIGHTING

Institutional gaslighting occurs

within a company, organization, or institution, such as a hospital. For example, they may portray whistleblowers who report problems as irrational or incompetent, or deceive employees about their rights.

This often occurs to cover up a mistake that could result in the person who erred facing punitive consequences or to keep people “in their place.” It’s a control mechanism, pure and simple.

### HAVE WE BEEN GASLIT BY OUR OWN GOVERNMENT?

I don’t think it’s farfetched to say that we, the people of the United States of America, have been gaslit.

Does this sound familiar? Lockdowns that keep you away from friends and loved ones? Losing your income and becoming dependent on handouts doled out by the government? Being censored and mocked when you say anything that is not in line with the official narrative? Being treated like a crazy conspiracy theorist who should be punished because of the harm you’re causing to others if you refuse to go along?

When you look at it this way, it feels like the entire US government and media have colluded to abuse the people. Many of the Covid-related “truths” that were promoted by the government and the media that we were not allowed to dispute have now been proven to be false. Stories we couldn’t question about the origins of the pandemic have been proven false. In another incident of broad-scale gaslighting unrelated to the pandemic, a lot of evidence has been produced that shows the Biden family may have received money from influence-peddling, but the media tells us not to believe it.

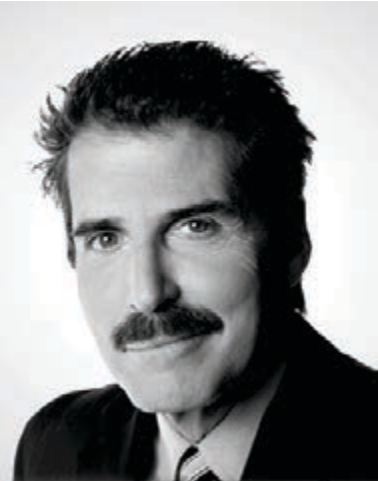
And like good little victims, it seems like a hefty portion of the country is refusing to believe the evidence, instead believing in the good intentions of their abusers. They’ve been gaslit, brainwashed, and are unable to break free of the manipulation.

And it’s still going on.

Recently Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote a scathing opinion of the US government’s handling of the Covid pandemic, saying that we “have experienced the greatest intrusions on civil liberties in the peacetime history of this country.”

“Executive officials across the country issued emergency decrees on a breathtaking scale. Governors and local leaders imposed lockdown orders forcing people to remain in their homes. They shuttered

Continued on page 14



By John Stossel

(TownHall) - Social Security is toast.

So is Medicare.

Too many of us old people live longer, so there are not enough working people to support us.

Soon both Social Security and Medicare will be broke.

Our politicians don't have the guts to do anything about it. Or even talk about it.

It's easy to see why.

Recently, France's president, trying to keep his country's pension system from going broke, raised

France's retirement age from 62 to a measly 64.

People have been protesting ever since.

In America, politicians who even hint at such solutions get screamed at by misinformed seniors: “Don't touch my retirement funds! You took money from my paycheck for years; that's my money I'm getting back!”

But it's not. It's young people's money. People my age rarely realize that most of us now get back triple what we paid in.

When Social Security began, a government retirement plan made financial sense. Most Americans didn't even live until age 65. Social Security was just for the minority who did.

But now Americans live, on average, to age 76. I'm 76. Henry Kissinger is 100. Since most of us live so long, there are just not enough workers to pay for us.

Yet our vote-hungry politicians won't say that in public.

Even Donald Trump cowers, saying, “No one will lay a hand on

your Medicare or your Social Security.”

The most clueless, like Sen. Bernie Sanders, even deny the obvious truth. He shouts: “Social Security today is not on the line going broke!”

But it just is. Reserve funds are projected to run out by 2034.

Medicare's reserves will run out even sooner.

Of course they will. When I first got Medicare, I was surprised how no one even pays attention to costs. Everything seems free.

“Get an MRI,” says my doctor. I immediately do. I don't ask the cost. The MRI people don't mention it either.

Months later, I get a complex notice that says my MRI cost \$2,625 and I must pay \$83.65. Or sometimes, nothing. Who did pay? Blue Cross? Taxpayers? The paperwork is so complex that I don't even know.

Old people who scour supermarkets to save a dollar on groceries never comparison shop for MRIs or heart surgery. “Why should

I? Someone else pays.”

As my new video illustrates, Medicare is a bomb with a burning fuse moving closer.

“*Sooner or later, it will blow up,*” says economist Dan Mitchell of the Center for Freedom and Prosperity. “*Politicians figure oh, well, maybe it blows up in five years or 10 years or 20 years. I won't be in office anymore.*”

Some claim raising taxes on rich people would solve the deficit, but it won't. There just aren't enough rich people. Even taking all the money from every billionaire wouldn't cover our coming bankruptcy.

The only solution is cutting benefits, raising the age when benefits start (sensible, since we live longer) or, Mitchell's preference, privatizing retirement plans, like Australia and Chile did.

America's politicians won't do any of those things.

So what will happen?

“*The only other alternative is printing money,*” says Mitchell.

“*I suspect that's what America will*

*do,*” I tell Mitchell. “*We'll be like Zimbabwe.*” Zimbabwe's president printed money to fund his deficit spending. When the currency collapsed in 2009, Zimbabwe was printing hundred trillion-dollar bills.

Yet politicians don't learn. In the current debt ceiling deal, Speaker Kevin McCarthy got President Joe Biden to “claw back” unused COVID relief funds and keep two years of non-defense discretionary spending roughly flat.

That's a little progress. But Biden wants to spend a record \$7 trillion next year.

McCarthy said Medicare and Social Security were “completely off the table.”

So the programs are still doomed.

“*Sooner or later bad things will happen to senior citizens,*” explains Mitchell. “*The government will either cut their benefits or all of a sudden start rationing health care. Or reimbursement rates will be so low that you won't be able to find a doctor or hospital to treat you.*”

★★★



ADVERTISEMENT

# Adult Protective Services is Used as a Guardian’s Weapon

From California, a victim writes:

*“As of 04/12/19 the conservator succeeded in getting an elder abuse restraining order filed against me citing of all things, elder abuse on my part. This was done to ensure further isolation of my mother at an assisted care facility & to prevent me from helping her explore ways of somehow breaking free from a conservatorship she initially opposed.”*

A Florida victim writes:

*“...it was the hospital and hospital’s attorney who activated DCF against me. I did absolutely nothing wrong and I was eventually cleared by the investigation. The allegations were totally false and came out of thin air. It took an enormous amount of energy and time to clear my name which derailed any other efforts to effectively intercede in the guardianship itself.”*

From a recently completed investigative report from the clerk of a Circuit Court in Florida:

*“... a friend of the ward was his designated healthcare surrogate and held a durable power of attorney for him. Soon after she began to question the need for a guardian to be appointed, she discovered she was under investigation by the Florida Department of children and families Adult Protective Services on suspicion of elder abuse or exploitation. She was later cleared of any wrongdoing by the investigation. This is the second investigation involving (guardian) Rebecca Fierli this office has worked recently where a friend or family member who questioned the need for guardianship found themselves under DCF investigation. In both instances the subjects were cleared in the investigation. In both cases the complaints were submitted anonymously.”*

Victims and advocates have long known that the apparatus of justice is often used to exploit and abuse wards and their families. Over the years, court insiders have not been reluctant to falsely accuse anyone who opposes them of the most heinous crimes. It is common for family members who oppose the guardianship to be referred to as elder abusers, evildoers, criminals, thieves and even murderers. Once enunciated before an equity probate judge and absent any opportunity to rebut the charges, these allegations, though false, unsubstantiated and egregious, are the lens through which the court sees a litigant. From that point forward he or she has absolutely no chance of prevailing in any probate litigation. But to emphasize how broken the system is, a guardian need only place a phone call to a colleague in Adult Protective Services who can then easily proceed to do the guardians dirty-work for free. The target of this type of dirty trick has absolutely no chance at anything even resembling justice.

Law enforcement is highly prone to ignoring complaints about abuse by lawyers and guardians and judges, but they are Johnny on the spot to falsely accuse and persecute anyone who stands in the way of guardianships. This is nothing new. It has been going on for decades.

This is just further proof that the guardianship racketeers will go to any lengths to propagate and perpetuate their egregious “industry” no matter what the consequences.

This will not stop until these courtroom criminals are convicted of their crimes.

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This ad was provided to this publication by **The Alliance Against Predatory Guardians, an Oregon Group.**

## Continued from page 1 • “Behavioral Pediatrician” Charlene Sabin ...

custody disputes we are reporting on, and children's lives literally at stake, it’s time to turn our attention toward Dr. Charlene Sabin. According to Dr. Sabin, she says her “practice is limited to conducting evaluations regarding parenting time and custody matters...” In essence, Dr. Sabin is hired by a party in a custody dispute. She then interviews the parties and writes up her evaluation on who she thinks the court should place the child with, and the court typically follows her recommendation. The problem, according to many who have gone through her process and reached out to the US~Observer, is that she typically places the child with the paying party - normally a father. This recommendation to the court comes regardless if there has been previous documented instances of abuse or violence in the household at the hands of the parent she favors.

Sabin is a self-described “Behavioral Pediatrician” practicing out of Portland, Oregon. I say ‘self-described’ because Sabin is not listed as a certified Behavioral Pediatrician through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), at least as of a June 12, 2023 search of their licensees. In the past, Dr. Sabin testified in an Oregon court that she sees “children with their parents of a variety of ages from toddlerhood on up through college for emotional and mental health issues, and medical issues that require medical attention in that area. I do therapy and I do medication management. I do custody and parenting time evaluations.” Sabin earned her medical license on July 14, 1978, and it is current. According to the Oregon Medical Board, her “specialty is self-reported” and is listed as pediatrics. The American Board of Pediatrics lists Dr. Sabin as having been certified in 1983 in “General Pediatrics”. Located on her website, Sabin lists many outstanding things on her “Curriculum Vitae” (CV), including an education background, and a long list of professional organizations that you’d infer she belonged to. But is this just more ‘self-reporting’? Does she have that background? Is she really aligned with these organizations, and what does any of that have to do with her evaluating a custody situation for the court? More importantly, what does that mean for the children, whose lives she impacts when she hands out one of her evaluations? Nothing can be found that shows Dr. Sabin is educated or licensed to be - or qualified to act as - a “behavioral” pediatrician or analyst, therapist, or mental health expert of any kind, other than what she says on her own website. Efforts made to verify her education, by filing Freedom of Information Act requests of Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), have gone unresponded to since they asked how I was going to use the

information I was requesting. Regardless of what is contained in the OHSU records, her medical license lists her as a general pediatrician, nothing more. In fact, many of the organizations she represents in her CV don’t acknowledge Dr. Sabin as being licensed or affiliated in any way:

- Charlene Sabin is not listed when doing a member search of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, of which the Oregon Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (OCCAP) is a regional offshoot.
- The Oregon Psychological Association doesn’t list her as a member.
- The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists doesn’t list Sabin as being licensed to provide therapy.
- As mentioned above, Sabin is not listed as a certified Behavioral Pediatrician through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

All this matters because Dr. Sabin holds herself up as an expert in behavior. In her evaluations, she interviews individual members of the family, including the children, and many times she offers therapeutic recommendations and psychological conclusions based on practices she is not licensed to perform. Who regulates her, when there is no regulatory board that sits over her? The Oregon Medical Board - the only board she is licensed under - has no jurisdiction, as her practice is clearly outside of the scope of general pediatric medicine. According to the testimony of Landon Poppleton, PhD, JD, who has refuted Dr. Sabin’s reports on multiple occasions, Dr. Sabin doesn’t use any of the prescribed models to determine a child’s best interest. Instead, she uses her own methodology to come to her conclusions. It’s something Poppleton testified to by saying, “*You know what struck me about the report when I looked at this as a summary of recommendations. I can’t tell what model [Dr. Sabin] is using to address child best interest. ... there’s several different models that can be used to do this. But you want to have some model, so you can critique the model and it can be replicated in some way. And I can’t tell what model she uses to do this.*” He later stated, “*It’s not the first time I’ve seen this in her reports. It’s actually almost the same critique I’ve given ... I’m looking at this and I’m always looking. Does she change it? Did she change it? So I actually testified in cases, having reviewed the data and said this in court, I wondered if she would change, and she just hasn’t.*” If you read our article “*Judge D. Charles Bailey Traffics Abused Child?*” on the front

page of this edition, you can see the results of one of Dr. Sabin’s evaluations. Because of that case, one young man is fighting for his life to not be placed back with his father - a man he has reported on multiple occasions as having sexually abused him. Dr. Sabin is currently being sued in federal court for her part in his ongoing struggle. One Yelp review was particularly on-point and scathing:

**DONOTTRUSTHER.**  
*My oldest son, now 19 years old and youngest, now 17 years old, would like you to hear their voices on Dr. Sabin. She not only ignored their pleas to not live with their abusive father, she tried diagnosing me, their mother, while not having the education or license to do so. I won back custody of my children after they both endured many years of psychological, emotional and physical abuse by their father, by the recommendation of Dr. Sabin. I worked in child protective services, juvenile law and now work for the government with a degree in psychology. Their father was arrested twice, had a restraining order filed on him by his second wife and was fired from his job all after the illegal evaluation by Dr. Sabin. She will NOT protect children in custody evaluations ... and makes hundreds of thousands of dollars off paying her off to give custody to fathers - even when they are abusive. ... look at the AFCC list to avoid the huge corruption circle for your children.*

Bottom line, Dr. Sabin should not be allowed to continue doing evaluations. Her methods are flawed, and her results are clearly not in the best interest of the children. She is not licensed to provide such a service. And it’s high time the courts are held accountable for allowing Dr. Sabin’s fraudulent “expert” testimony. Judge Denise Keppinger of Columbia County needs to take notice of the type of evaluations Dr. Sabin produces. It is on good authority that Dr. Sabin is clearly showing bias against the mother in the divorce and custody case *Chelsea Jones vs Mitchell Jones*. It has been reported that Sabin’s evaluation contains misrepresentations of what was told to Dr. Sabin during the evaluation process, and that she is biased against the mother because of having “anxious attachment” or being overly concerned with the welfare of her children, among other things. Further, it is reported Dr. Sabin has glossed over the fact that DHS has been involved, supporting the allegations of the father being overly angry, with the potential for lethality. Stay tuned for more on Jones’ case, and for Dr. Sabin’s reckoning, which is clearly at hand.

★★★

## Continued from page 2 • Will US District Judge Douglas Rayes correct 13 years of corruption?

*them, then he would have evidence that they do exist, and would have no basis to claim that Rusch and Bradley perjured themselves.”*

Mr. Quiel requested his IMF file prior to trial, during trial (it is in the transcript), and after trial. Again, US District Judge Teilborg had an opportunity to produce it during and after trial when it was requested but again and again he denied Mr. Quiel all access to this crucial exculpatory evidence. With this indisputable evidence that the government hid the IMF file which contained the lack of FBAR’s, these co-conspirators all continue their careers while Mr. Quiel continues to fight. Mr. Quiel was sent to prison for 10 months and has spent millions of dollars for his defense and is now facing civil fines and penalties in the amount of \$2.1 million for a FBAR fine.

**JUDGE RAYES CAN RIGHT THIS INJUSTICE**

Edelstein, Stockwell, Bradley and Rusch

are EXPERTS and knew the evidence and tax forms. There is NO DOUBT Rusch and Bradley perjured themselves at the direction of prosecutor Edlestein when they created false evidence through testimony. The proof of this perjury came in 2020 when Quiel received his IMF file. It clearly shows the boxes on Quiel’s tax forms were not checked, disclosing the existence of foreign bank accounts, which completely exonerates Quiel and indicts Rusch, Edelstein, Bradley and deservedly Judge Teilborg, himself. All had access to the IMF file from the beginning. And now, Judge Rayes has access to both the IMF and the transcript from the 2013 trial. We believe they show that Judge Teilborg purposely and willfully assisted the IRS/DOJ in the conspiracy of hiding the evidence. Judge Rayes clearly has an opportunity to provide Quiel the relief he is due for the government’s willful disregard of the truth. Remember, the jury found Quiel



Judge Teilborg

INNOCENT of conspiracy at trial. Any prudent person easily recognizes the government does not care about the facts. It will be interesting to see whether or not Judge Douglas Rayes does. Or if he will allow the continued fraudulent use of fabricated evidence against Michael Quiel to stand. We hope Judge Rayes will make the only decision a logical person would make, rather than create a bunch of procedural, confusing attorney-language like Judge Teilborg did in a bid to bury his own culpability. At the end of the day, Michael Quiel was acquitted on all criminal charges except filing a false tax return. It is now up to US Federal Judge Douglas Rayes to serve justice...

**Editor’s Note: Anyone with information on Christian Reeves (Christopher Rusch) or any of his co-conspirators listed above should call the US~Observer at 541-474-7885 or send email to editor@usobserver.com.**

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-Edward Snook - Editor-in-Chief, US~Observer

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Innocence and Punishment:  
The Aftermath of False Confessions

By Maria Dilorenzo

(Crime Report) - “Only in America can I kill someone, and two people stand up and take the blame for it,” Keith Jespersion, also known as the Happy Face Killer, says matter-of-factly in a phone interview from Oregon State Penitentiary.

On January 21, 1990, Jespersion killed 23-year-old Taunja Bennett after meeting her at the B&I Tavern in Portland, Oregon. Shortly after, he dumped her body off an isolated road in the Columbia River Gorge.

Bennett’s murder caught the attention of 58-year-old Laverne Pavlinac after it had made the local news. Pavlinac had a history of calling police to make false accusations against her boyfriend, 39-year-old John Sosnovske, about crimes he did not commit, hoping to put him in prison to subsequently free herself from a relationship she described as abusive. This time was no different. She called Detective John Ingram and blamed Sosnovkse for Bennett’s murder.

Pavlinac’s story would change several times over the course of the investigation, until she eventually confessed to helping Sosnovske kill Bennett and later dispose of the body. Detectives had asked Pavlinac to point out where Bennett’s body was disposed of in the Columbia River Gorge, which she somehow did with no problem.

“I think Detective John Ingram sold her a bill of goods, saying we’re going to put you in jail for now, and then you’re going to testify, and we’re going to let you go and you go have a happy life forever and ever,” Jespersion surmises. “And, of course, that didn’t happen.”

With a recorded confession and her knowledge of a detail only the killer would know, detectives were able to arrest and charge both her and Sosnovske for Bennett’s murder. At this point, Pavlinac attempted to recant her confession, but was nonetheless convicted and sentenced to prison for ten years to life.

Sosnovske always maintained his innocence, but out of fear of facing the death penalty, he pleaded no contest and was sentenced to 15 years to life.

In March 1995, upon his arrest, Jespersion confessed to killing Bennett and made it his mission to free both Pavlinac and Sosnovske, who were both innocent. Jespersion figured he “[could] use these people as witnesses to the fact that I had compassion enough to get them out of prison, and in sentencing that means a lot.”

But it would not be that easy. In the months following his confession, Jespersion would learn the deep flaws that ravaged the criminal justice system in America, as Sosnovske and Pavlinac remained in prison despite their innocence until November 1995.

Although it makes sense that prosecutors wanted to make sure Jespersion was telling the truth about murdering Bennett, should Sosnovske and Pavlinac have ever been arrested and convicted in the first place?

“It was very shoddy police work, and I think there is also a certain arrogance involved in it too....here, the investigating officers, they just knew it was John [Sosnovske]... every time Laverne would come up with a new one, it seems to me they got a little bit disappointed like ‘oh, we gotta do something to tighten this up’ and let Laverne sort of reel them back in,” Michael E. Rose, Sosnovske’s post-conviction attorney, explained to The Crime Report.

“It’s a bit of hubris that they see themselves being on the right side of the law that they can do no wrong. When you’re in that kind of position of power and authority, you just don’t change your mind,” Rose said. “You don’t let on that you are vulnerable, weak, or imperfect. I don’t want to say that’s true for all police officers, but there is that tendency.”

In 1990, poor police work in New York cost Jeffrey Deskovic sixteen years of his life when he was wrongfully convicted for raping and murdering a fellow classmate, Angela Corraera.

“The jury in my case convicted me, even though the DNA did not match me. It was just based on the confession,” Deskovic explained in an interview with The Crime Report.

Often, people cannot understand why someone would confess to something they did not do, especially when the consequences are as dire as a lengthy prison sentence. Many people believe if ever placed in such a position that they would never admit to a heinous crime they did not commit.



Jeffrey Deskovic

However, they fail to recognize how stressful, grueling, and unrelenting police interrogations can be, which would cause anyone to crumble under such pressure.

Steven Drizin, a Clinical Professor of Law at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, co-founder of the Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth, and one of the attorneys representing Brendan Dassey, a central figure in Netflix’s docuseries Making a Murderer, told The Crime Report that “everybody has a breaking point.”

“Some people can hold out longer than others, but I have no doubt that over time, most people, subjected to today’s psychological interrogation tactics, could be made to confess to a crime, even murder,” Drizin said.

In Deskovic’s case, he describes that he believed that he was helping the police solve the case when they drove him 40 minutes out of the county where he lived. Since he was supposed to be in school, neither his mother nor anyone else had any idea of his whereabouts, putting him in a vulnerable position. The police then convinced him to take a polygraph test, telling him that if he complied, they would be able to share new information they had about the case.

“The polygraph was [administered by] a Putnam County Sheriff’s investigator, Daniel Stephens, who was dressed like a civilian, and he pretended not to be a cop. He never read me my Miranda warnings,” Deskovic recounted. “I didn’t understand all the words in the brochure that explained how the polygraph worked, but I thought I was there to help the police, so what does it matter?”

At no point did Deskovic have an attorney present, and the officers did not give him anything to eat throughout the day. Instead, they brought him into a small room and gave him countless cups of coffee to make him nervous.

Stephens then wired him to the machine and began an interrogation implementing what Deskovic describes as “third-degree tactics.”

“He raised his voice at me, he invaded my personal space, he kept asking me the same questions over and over again. I realized I was a suspect then, but it was too late. Each hour that passed by my fear increased,” Deskovic said.

“I was in fear of my life...he kept that up for 6½ to 7 hours, and then that was capped off by when he left the room the cop that was pretending to be my friend came in and told me that the other officers were going to harm me, that I had to help myself.”

Eventually, the officer convinced Deskovic to tell them what they wanted to hear, promising he would then be able to go home.

“Being young, naïve, frightened, overwhelmed emotionally, in fear of my life, I made up a story based on information which he had given me during the course of the interrogation. By the time it was said and done, I had collapsed on the floor in the fetal position

crying uncontrollably. So, all those circumstances led to the false confession.”

Deskovic fought for his innocence behind bars, losing seven appeals in the process, before he was finally freed and eventually exonerated. During his incarceration, he said he collected articles about other people who were exonerated, many through DNA evidence. Deskovic had requested a review of DNA evidence in his case, but was initially denied.

“On one hand I’d be happy for people, and I would envision the scene outside the prison and use that as motivation to continue, but at some point, that feeling would leave me and I would start to get frustrated like, ‘what about me?’” Deskovic said. “It was really just a technical difference. They were excluded by DNA after the conviction, and I was excluded before I was convicted. Their evidence was newly discovered, mine wasn’t.”

The cases involving Pavlinac, Sosnovske, and Deskovic are only a few examples of the defective process that still exists today within police interrogations.

In the United States, it is estimated that 46,000 to 230,000 currently incarcerated prisoners are innocent, according to The Los Angeles Times. If nothing else, these numbers reveal an ongoing problem and a broken system every American citizen is susceptible to falling victim to.

If police interrogations are meant to lead to a clear path to justice, why should a false confession ever occur? Do most detectives and prosecutors simply wish to solve a case, regardless of one’s guilt?

Within an interrogation, Drizin says that police officers use deception, promises of leniency, and threats of harm to “break a suspect down to a place of hopelessness.”

“The suspect begins to realize that asserting innocence is futile and wants to bring an end to the interrogation by any means possible,” Drizin said, detailing a process he believes is concerned only with reaching a conclusion, no matter if the truth has been discovered.

Drizin believes that many investigations rely too heavily on confessions as a way to close cases. He argues that law enforcement should instead “get the suspect’s account, take some time to prove that the suspect is lying and then slowly confront the suspect with the evidence that proves that the suspect isn’t telling the truth.”

“It’s a process more like peeling off the layers of the onion to convince the suspect that he is guilty rather than a process that bludgeons a suspect into confessing to a narrative created by the police. It all boils down to better police investigations,” Drizin said.

When someone is wrongfully accused of a crime, they tend to believe in the adage, “the truth will set them free.” Often, they do not believe they will end up convicted and stuck in prison for years.

They have faith in the system, that it will work for them, making them “overconfident that they will be able to demonstrate that they are innocent once they leave the interrogation room, but they come to find that their confession makes that all-but impossible,” according to Drizin.

Over time, faith chisels away, as they fight against a system that poses as a relentless opponent unconcerned with truth. In the meantime, with innocent people behind bars, the world grows more unsafe since the true felons are left free.

Just as Jespersion went on to kill seven more women, the perpetrator in Deskovic’s case was able to kill a second victim, a teacher with two children, while he was free and Deskovic was behind bars.

“They could have caught him, and she could have still lived,” he said.

Since such monumental mistakes cost people their lives and freedom, a growing awareness has been leading to some significant changes within the way interrogations are conducted.

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 8 • Fiscal Insanity: The Government Borrows \$6 Billion a Day ...

Most recently, the U.S. has allocated nearly \$115 billion in emergency military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine since the start of the Russia invasion.

As Dwight D. Eisenhower warned in a 1953 speech, this is how the military industrial complex continues to get richer, while the American taxpayer is forced to pay for programs that do little to enhance our lives, ensure our happiness and well-being, or secure our freedoms.

This is no way of life. Yet it’s not just the government’s endless wars that are bleeding us dry.

We’re also being forced to shell out money for surveillance systems to track our movements, money to further militarize our already militarized police, money to allow the government to raid our homes and bank accounts, money to fund schools where our kids learn nothing about freedom and everything about compliance, and on and on.

There was a time in our history when our forebears said “enough is enough” and stopped paying their taxes to what they considered an illegitimate government. They stood their ground and refused to support a system that was slowly choking out any attempts at self-governance, and which refused to be held accountable for its crimes against the people. Their resistance sowed the seeds for the revolution that would follow.

Unfortunately, in the 200-plus years since we established our own government, we’ve let bankers, turncoats and number-crunching bureaucrats muddy the waters and pilfer the accounts to such an extent that we’re back where we started.

Once again, we’ve got a despotic regime with an imperial ruler doing as they please.

Once again, we’ve got a judicial system insisting we have no rights under a government which demands that the people march in lockstep with its dictates.

And once again, we’ve got to decide whether we’ll keep marching or break stride and make a turn toward freedom.

But what if we didn’t just pull out our pocketbooks and pony up to the federal government’s outrageous demands for more money?

What if we didn’t just dutifully line up to drop our hard-earned dollars into the collection bucket, no questions asked about how it will be spent?

What if, instead of quietly sending in our tax checks, hoping vainly for some meager return, we did a little calculating of our own and started deducting from our taxes those programs that we refuse to support?

As I make clear in my book *Battlefield America: The War on the American People* and in its fictional counterpart The Erik Blair Diaries, if we don’t have the right to decide what happens to our hard-earned cash, then we don’t have any rights at all. ★★



# Articles and Opinions

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## E-mail

editor@usobserver.com

The goal of US~Observer is to ensure “due process” and “equal protection under the law.”

Citizens who have founded and support it believe in the Bill of Rights and Article 1, Section 1, of the Oregon Constitution which states:

*“We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right; that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such a manner they think proper. This enumeration of rights and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.”*

**Get involved & send YOUR comments or concerns to the Editor**

## Continued from page 1 • Florida Realtor Scams Elderly Man ...

the realtor could buy and sell for him. This ultimately resulted in the loss of his properties at age 63. At age 66 he moved to Thailand.

### WHAT A FORMER PENSACOLA BROKER/REALTOR DID TO ME

#### Brent Sampson’s narrative:

*“While working at Kadena Air Base, Japan, I gave Florida Broker/Realtor Samuel Hartzog (Sam) my Power of Attorney (POA) to buy property and he got me two excellent homes at 2149 & 2133 Antillies St. in Pensacola. I was very happy with them. He knew I had my Utah home for sale (5980 S. 3100 W. Roy Ut). He wanted a quick sell of this home to acquire another great Florida property (2774 Chickering Road, in Pensacola) so he discounted my house by \$20,000. He said it had to be done immediately to make the trade, therefore the need to discount it. For five years he told me and my accountant that the Chickering property was mine to list on my taxes. Later he said property in Florida was going down in price, so to stop my loss, he was going to transfer Chickering back into his name. I had never heard of anything like that plus it was bringing in a good income so I paid a lawyer for papers to stop Sam’s use of my POA so he couldn’t transfer it back – Sam said okay, he did not need the POA anymore. I’m sure Sam had a big laugh when I later found that it was never in my name in the first place and he had got away with stealing my Utah home money. I was told that Sam used my name to take loans against the Chickering house from Chase Bank. Chase sent me a notice saying they were taking it back because of nonpayment and had my name as being ‘In possession of the property’. The house was never in my name so Sam lied to me, my accountant, the IRS and to Chase Bank.*

*Right after stealing my Utah home money, Sam discounted my two excellent new Florida rental homes (2149 & 2133 Antillies St. Pensacola) so his friend/partner could re-sell them for a quick \$85,000 profit. Both were new, had an excellent income and needed no maintenance.*

*2149 Antillies was bought for me on 4/25/2003 for \$100,900. Sold to Gates on 12/10/2004 for \$112,500. Gates then sold on 10/8/2005 for \$160,000 – a \$47,500 profit.*

*2133 Antillies was bought for me on 4/30/2003 for \$104,900. Sold to Gates on 12/10 2004 for \$130,000. Gates then sold on 10/8/2005 for \$167,000 – a \$37,000 profit.*

*But that wasn’t enough. Sam then did everything possible to lose every asset I had. He had to know that he could get away with anything to go to the extremes he did. He got me two 66-year-old run down replacement properties but without a 1031 exchange and without my permission. All my trading was done only with an exchange, so Sam wasted \$12,000 in closing costs. I was forced to have the bank take one property back (9732 Sidney Rd, Pensacola) because of the giant negative income. It was commercial with a church and house. The church was vacant the first year. I later found that Sam did not care about it being vacant because he used this property for storage for his house-turning side business. He used the big Sunday school classroom plus he had a big storage shed placed in the yard for his own personal use and kept using the storage even after it got rented. All of the years he managed it, he should have been paying rent to me for using it. The bankruptcy lawyer I contacted said I should file criminal charges against Sam.*

*The second 66-year-old property (617 N. X ST. Pensacola) was in a ghetto and 100% unrentable. No one would ever want it. I had to have it demolished because of drugs and crime making it a liability only. The price for the vacant yard was reduced to just \$5,000 but still no one wanted it. I’m 78 years old but have nothing to show for my 45 years of working, buying, repairing, and managing rentals. This is all because of Samuel Hartzog. But I’m told that a realtor has a fiduciary duty to represent his client. But now my loss is also because of my attorney Tony Washnock for allowing him to get away with it.*

*To find out about what the realtor Mr. Hartzog had done, I hired Attorney Oscar Locklin. He was prompt, professional and excellent. He gave me the following information: For Chickering, the property was never transferred into your name, and has been owned by Hartzog since 1993. This appears to be a fraud and should be pursued immediately. It appears that Hartzog stole your money. There is also potentially criminal and licensing penalties for Mr. Hartzog. Our firm handles many real estate transactions every month, and that is a large part of our practice. Therefore, the partners have instructed me that we have a policy of not suing realtors, even if wrongdoing is clear. Because they could not take the case, I hired Attorney D Anthony ‘Tony’ Washnock.*

*There were ten things Washnock said he was going to do. This is what I needed done and why I paid him, but he did not do one of them. He wasted my time and money.*

*They were:*

*1) I will try to get admissibility in court of the realtor Sam Hartzog’s arrest for aggravated assault.*

*2) I have every expectation of taking his license and his Chickering property (which he said was mine)*

*3) I will force him to pay a Florida law penalty of three times the theft of \$35,316.26 plus*

*interest, attorney fees and costs.*

*4) I’m sending subpoenas regarding the discovery from the Title Companies to track the money trails.*

*5) I will ask Sam for a full accounting of all transactions.*

*6) I will track every property and money trail.*

*7) As far as the \$250,000, I may need to amend pleadings to increase the claim.*

*8) I will get a Court Judgment. I was told a court judgment would allow me to get a \$50,000 claim against Sam Hartzog and/or a Florida victim’s fund.*

*9) When I am in a position to send the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation the complicated theft evidence, I will do so.*

*10) We are going to show the court that Sam should have to give you Chickering property.*

### SAMUEL HARTZOG’S ADMISSION OF GUILT

In hindsight, Brent Sampson believes that Attorney Tony Washnock could have been helping Realtor Samuel Hartzog avoid facing criminal charges and severe civil liability. We do not have any proof of this, but it sure makes sense. Regardless, Hartzog sent the following email to Brent on October 31, 2011:

Mon, Oct 31, 2011, 9:20 PM

Brent,

*I am so very sorry. I know you don’t check your email every day so I don’t know when you will get this email or if we will be in the middle of a court case when you do, but no matter when you get this, and no matter what happens, I wanted you to know from the bottom of my heart that I am sorry. I never could have dreamed things would go down this path and I would give anything to go back and take away any pain this has caused you. I remember getting your emails for years telling me about how you were having to endure the torture of going through your divorce and how terrible your ex-wife’s lawyer was being and all I wanted and prayed for was for you was to have it end so you could get on with your life and begin to enjoy it, as it is meant to be. You once said that all the stress that the divorce fighting caused you was so negative for your health and I know it is true. The last thing I want to do is add any more stress to your life.*

*In this last month, since I received the notice from your attorney that you were going to sue me for over \$100,000. I have been living in the same hell you endured with your divorce. I don’t sleep at night except for 20 or 30 minutes at a time. I wake up at 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. and know I will not be able to get back to sleep but will just lie in bed and run through all the things I could have done differently. My mind races back and forth trying to figure this all out. I can barely concentrate on anything else in my life. I try every day to figure out where things took such a terrible turn that you could think I would ever intend to keep money from you. I read through stack after stack of email between us and try to piece together this terrible thing that has affected us both. And before I go any further I want you to know that I am not writing this to try avoid paying you the full amount of money you are asking from me. I have accepted that because of my failure to regularly and efficiently communicate with you, I have left myself open to your thinking that I have tried to keep you from what is rightly yours. This is not the case Brent. I fully intend to pay you the amount you have requested. As much as anything else, I am asking for your forgiveness for my failure to communicate better with you and to believe me when I say I meant you no harm. This letter is not just about money, it is about how I lost your trust and in the process lost a friend who depended on me to help him. It’s about how poor communications, for which I take full responsibility, caused you to believe me to be depriving you of what is rightfully yours. If you take nothing else from this letter I hope you will someday come to accept the fact that while I was terrible in keeping you up to date on all my plans for the properties and while I failed to describe in detail how I was going to make these properties profitable for you, I never intended for you to feel cheated. Since your attorney writes that you are intending to initiate legal proceedings against me I understand how terribly my lack of communication has made you feel to get you to this point. Again, for that, I am so incredibly sorry.*

*Obviously, since this letter to you is being written just days before you and your attorney probably intend to bring a suit against me it may too late to even ask this but would you even consider letting us settle this out of court? I was just hoping that since what you would be asking for in court is something I am already willing to pay to you as punishment for not doing a better job of communicating with you, that we could eliminate the necessity of dragging this through the court system if we can come to an agreement on how this money can be repaid?*

*While I was not able to pay you back the \$101,586 within the 30 days I was given to do so by your attorney I am not objecting to the amount. And while I know that the reason the law allows treble damages is to punish someone for*

*wrongly depriving someone of their property, I am willing to pay that same punishment for failing to do a better job of communicating with you. I am not contesting the fact that it is three times the amount owed in question I am just of the belief that we would waste time and energy and cause so much more stress in our lives that could be eliminated if we could just agree to a plan to get the money you are requesting to you in a timely manner without having the burden of interrogatories, depositions, motions and all the time leading up to the trial to further let stress age ourselves into an earlier grave.*

*Brent, the only two things I want are: 1) to be able to have you understand what I have known all along and what I can substantiate through the series of emails I have dug up from as far back as six years ago, is that I never intended to deprive*

*you of one penny of your funds (while it might be hard to remember now, we (you, me, and the accountants) were in complete agreement on how we would handle things to best benefit your situation with the divorce you were going through, and 2) to be able to make you feel financially whole by paying you the money you are asking for no matter what that means I must do or sell.*

*If it is still possible, I would like to request that we at least attempt to work out an agreement on how to get your attorney paid, and you paid in a way that is acceptable to both*

*of you and financially possible for me. Please see if you can find it in your heart to let us settle this matter in this way.*

*After you are still wondering why I would be willing to pay you three times the amount that is owed when I know my mistake was poor communication and not theft, you have to look at a few things that caused me to come to this decision. It is my hope that you will continue to read this so you can understand better because I believe it may also take some stress off of you.*

*As I wrote you earlier this year, at the age of 52 I have become a father again to a baby girl. While this is my second daughter, because of military deployments with the Marine Corps, the fact that we lived in different parts of the country and the poor relationship I had with her mother, I never got the opportunity to watch my first daughter grow up or share in all those beautiful moments parenthood provides. I feel God has now given me a second chance with my newborn daughter Sophia. She was born pre-mature and almost didn’t make it out of Sacred Heart hospital’s intensive care unit for newborns. To me it is a miracle that she is alive and in my life. Over the past months as I have gotten to watch her grow I have felt such a need to provide for her and look out for her in every way I can. She is truly a blessing to me and all I want to do is get this situation between us behind us so I can concentrate on being the best father to her that is possible. I am just trying to start a new life with her and her mother and would pray that you at least consider letting us work this out between us.*

*Brent, I hope this letter finds you well and that you will consider what I am proposing. By allowing me to sell assets here I will be able to get you ALL the money you are requesting. I could market my real estate at a price that would attract buyers and could get it sold in a timely manner allowing me to pay you back in a very reasonable time. If I knew of a better way to get this money to you any quicker I would do it but I do not. It is even possible that allowing me to sell the property myself will get the money to you FASTER than if we had to go through the courts. I will also attempt to borrow any money I can from any source I can, in an attempt to get you and your attorney paid even sooner. All I am asking for is a brief window in order to liquidate what I have to in order to get you paid. If you would consider this could you write me back and let me know that you are willing to at least try to work something out. If what I am able to offer you at that time is not acceptable you can always proceed with your suit against me but can we at least try to work it out first?*

*I appreciate all the time you took to read this and will wait for your answer in hopes that we can put this all behind us quickly and be able to focus again on the things God put us here to do.*

Sincerely,

Sam

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Time has proven that Samuel Hartzog’s letter is nothing more or less than a scam intended to enable this crooked ex-realtor to avoid criminal charges and his having to pay back all of Brent’s retirement – his life savings – that he took. His letter is nothing more or less than a despicable, cunning attempt to avoid liability.

**Editor’s Note: Hartzog had his Realtor’s License revoked in March of 2017 but is continuing to offer the public a “professional consulting” service.**

**Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Samuel Hartzog or his current activities are urged to contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885 or send an email to editor@usobserver.com.**

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# When children kill: Doctors warn ADHD medication and developing brains of children can create 'perfect storm' for psychotic episodes — as nation is rocked by murder of 9-year-old boy by his SISTER, 12

By Cassidy Morrison

(DAILYMAIL) - The murder of a nine-year-old boy by his sister, 12, has gripped the nation and left people asking: What turns a seemingly ordinary child into a killer?

The Oklahoma girl stabbed her brother with a kitchen knife three times in January in what appeared to be an unprovoked attack before waking up her mother and divulging in floods of tears what she had done.

Doctors have warned that certain drugs or an undiagnosed personality disorder could drive a child to kill — with it now emerging that the girl had just come off an unnamed ADHD medication.

Dr. Stuart Fischer, a New York-based emergency medicine expert, warned medications can trigger a ‘perfect storm’ in children that can trigger behavior changes, in the most extreme cases making children homicidal or suicidal.

The horrifying case in Oklahoma resurfaced with the release of harrowing bodycam footage of the girl's arrest and her mother, April Lyda's conversations with police.

The footage shows the girl, who DailyMail.com is not naming, barrelling down the stairs yelling ‘I'm sorry’ several times in between choking sobs.

As she is being placed in handcuffs, the girl sobbed: ‘I'm so sorry, I don't know what happened. It's some demonic s\*\*t.’

In an interview yesterday, her mother also revealed how the girl had been taking ADHD medications shortly before the attack.

She said her daughter had been put back on the medications after going back to school. But within a month, when she started cutting her arms, doctors decided to take her off them again.

The young girl cut herself again the night before the attack on her brother, Zander, who had been in bed trying to sleep at the time.

The boy died a short time later from his injuries. But in footage released by Tulsa Police, the mother and daughter both believe that the boy is still alive.

Dr Fischer warned DailyMail.com that medications could have contributed to turning the child into a killer.

He said: “Someone who goes from needing a medication like this [ADHD drugs] to someone who is homicidal or psychopathic — this has been documented extensively since the drugs were first used many years ago.”

He described it as a ‘perfect storm’ of medicines that you could probably see some behavior change in the person that could turn ‘dangerous or pathological’ in extreme cases.

Common ADHD medications taken in the US such as Adderall can cause a range of side effects including psychosis, where contact is lost with external reality, mood swings, depression and panic attacks.

Coming off the drugs can cause a range of withdrawal



April Lyda with her two children

symptoms as well, which addiction center the Orlando Recovery Center says includes psychosis, paranoia and hallucinations.

He also said ADHD medication combined with other drugs, like asthma drugs, can have unusual interactions.

Psychiatric medications meant to treat depression and anxiety, such as Zoloft and Prozac, called SSRIs, can sometimes cause suicidal thoughts as well as hallucinations and homicidal ideation.

Prednisone, a steroid that relieves lung inflammation which helps people with severe asthma when they experience an attack, can also cause mood swings, psychosis, and mania.

It has not been revealed whether the 12-year-old girl had recently used any other medications despite those for ADHD.

Ms. Lyda claimed that her daughter started having behavior issues when “she was put back on a medication she was off for over a year.”

At the same time, police reported that the young girl had a history of self-harming.

Dr Fischer said: “People being tapered off prednisone can become very depressed. It has a psychological side effect to it. This is not alternative medicine and it's not meant to be treated for psychiatric issues.

“This is complicated chemistry, what [the medicine] is doing. It cannot have only good effects. It's inconceivable that a medicine as important as asthma medicine only has a positive effect.”

In a 2003 case study published in the Canadian Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Review, researchers from Newfoundland, Canada reported on an eight-year-old boy who was taking corticosteroids for his asthma and started experiencing hallucinations and delusions.

These included visual disturbances such as seeing women dancing in grass skirts and claiming that ‘ladies' noses looked weird’.

The young boy also began feeling very suicidal and said he should be serving the devil.

Eventually, the family doctor took the boy off the corticosteroids and his delusions and paranoia dissipated.

In a previous case of a child killer, a 12-year-old boy was shot dead at an abandoned house in Jackson, Mississippi, after it was claimed that he had got into a fight with another boy over a gun. Witnesses said that during the scuffle, the gun went off.

Dr Fischer also suggested that a personality disorder, that was previously hidden, could drive a child to suddenly become a killer.

He said: “Something has triggered [the mood change]. In this case, it could be that the prednisone is the straw that broke the camel's back.

“Someone who has an underlying disorder, this could put them over the edge.”

Asked about what disorder this could be, he said: “It could be a paranoia.

“A paranoia usually refers to when there is no present danger, but someone who is perceiving a danger that is not really there.”

Paranoias can leave someone with a heightened sense of danger, even if no danger is present, which can lead to irrational acts of violence.

Dr Fischer added: “I want to make it clear that it could also be other factors. They could have meningitis, for example... this may give rise to very erratic behavior.”

“Millions, if not billions, of kids have grown up without this medicine in the course of human history.

“This is a case that may make us think about the power unleashed by these medicines and, secondly, how to study them.”

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain or spinal cord, which can affect the functioning of the organ.

Almost as soon as the stabbing was committed, the 12-year-old appeared remorseful, yelling ‘I'm so sorry’, ‘I don't know what happened,’ and ‘God, please help me. What the f\*\*\*. Please. F\*\*\* please.’

Ms. Lyda, who rushed to the hospital with her injured son while her daughter was detained by police, said she had been asleep upstairs when the attack occurred.

There are also religious overtones in the mother's written explanation which included lines like ‘they were raised as God-fearing children’ and ‘As any 12-year-old child who was not allowed to cuss or watch scary evil movies.’

This has led many online observers to speculate that Ms Lyda's religious beliefs were overbearing on the 12-year-old girl, who may have been rebelling.

While not confirmed that the girl had been taking prednisone, the drug is one that can cause notable mood swings when stopped and started abruptly.

The girl is in juvenile custody with the Tulsa Police Child Crisis Unit in charge of the investigation. She is being held at the Family Center for Juvenile Justice, according to Tulsa Police.

This is the second homicide in the city of Tulsa this year, the Tulsa Police Department Child Crisis Unit said.

Tulsa Police Department Chief Franklin tweeted: ‘All homicides are tragic, but the 2nd homicide of 2023 in Tulsa shows a definitive societal problem. The question is, how does society address a child killing another child?’

Ms. Lyda has been raising money on GoFundMe in order to afford to move. She said her daughter was a ‘normal teenager’ who never even ‘yelled’ at her until she went back on an unspecified medication that she’d stopped taking for a year.

“They were good kids... they were raised as God-fearing children and never had behavioral issues until she was put back on a medication she was off for over a year,” she said.

A motive has not been made public, but the young girl is receiving unspecified health treatment for an undisclosed amount of time. ★★★

## Continued from page 9 • Gaslighting: The American People are Trapped in a Textbook Abusive Relationship

businesses and schools, public and private. They closed churches even as they allowed casinos and other favored businesses to carry on. They threatened violators not just with civil penalties but with criminal sanctions too. They surveilled church parking lots, recorded license plates, and issued notices warning that attendance at even outdoor services satisfying all state social-distancing and hygiene requirements could amount to criminal conduct. They divided cities and neighborhoods into color-coded zones, forced individuals to fight for their freedoms in court on emergency timetables, and then changed their color-coded schemes when defeat in court seemed imminent,” he said.

At the federal level, he highlighted not only immigration decrees but vaccine mandates, the regulation of landlord-tenant relations and pressure on social media companies to suppress “misinformation.”

The gaslighting blowback was immediate, with breathlessly outraged headlines.

Slate eloquently opined, “Neil Gorsuch’s List of “Civil Liberties Intrusions” Is, Uh, Missing a Few Things.” making sure to throw plenty of insulting talking points into their introductory paragraph in their attempt to liken a Supreme Court Justice who was educated at Harvard Law, Oxford, Georgetown, and Columbia, to an ignorant

relative one merely tolerates. And they insinuated he was a racist.

Gorsuch has long railed against such policies, and his opinions have taken on an increasingly shrill tone, like the Fox News-poisoned uncle who hectors you about the plandemic in 3,000-word Facebook comments. The justice’s rant in Arizona v. Mayorkas, however, hits a new low, moving beyond the usual yada-yada grievance parade to issue a thesis statement of sorts...

...As Vox’s Ian Millhiser quickly pointed out, this sweeping claim leaves out two “intrusions on civil liberties” that any person with a basic grasp of history and sanity would surely rank as worse than pandemic policies: slavery and Jim Crow.

An opinion piece published in the NY Times gasped, “Neil Gorsuch Has Given Himself Away,” made it seem as if the Justice was belittling every other civil rights mishap in the history of America while also blithely disregarding the folks who died during the pandemic.

The New Republic condescendingly liberal-splained to the rest of us “What Neil Gorsuch Got Wrong About the Pandemic,” stating that “The justice’s vision of the judiciary’s role in public health may be more dangerous than any Covid-era restriction.”

The site Above The Law literally said

Gorsuch was stupid in the piece, “For An Originalist, Gorsuch Is Clearly Slacking On His Definitions And Their Historical Meanings.” The subheading reads, “Is what he said stupid? Yes. But let’s be technical here.”

Law and Crime website also played the race card and did so right in the headline: Neil Gorsuch implies COVID restrictions were worse than slavery and Jim Crow, and the internet noticed.

Let’s look at that definition of political gaslighting again...

For example, the person or political party may downplay things their administration has done, discredit their opponents, imply that critics are mentally unstable, or use controversy to deflect attention away from their mistakes.

Oof. If that textbook case of gaslighting isn’t embarrassing, it should be. Then again, narcissists are rarely embarrassed.

The gaslighting will escalate.

Another thing about narcissists: they just get angry when they’re called out. They will respond by gaslighting you harder or seeking to “ruin” you. (source) They’ll punish you with a loss of “privileges,” money, material goods, and freedom. We’ve watched it happen again and again in our cancel culture media. Some of us have been unfortunate enough to have personal relationships with narcissists

and learned this the hard way.

The only way to end narcissistic abuse and gaslighting is to recognize it and remove yourself from the situation as much as you can. Obviously, when it’s our entire government and society, that becomes complicated. You may be stuck with just recognizing it. But that in itself gives you a certain amount of freedom and personal power. It helps you get off the hamster wheel, and you begin to spot the manipulations more easily.

One thing we can be sure of is that this will escalate as more and more people say, “No, that’s not what happened.” This is something we can expect, and in some small way, maybe we can take comfort in the response. Perhaps we can smile to ourselves because we know those who were trying to manipulate us all are on the defensive.

But what do you think? Do you believe the mainstream media, the liberal pundits, social media, and our government are gaslighting us? Do you think they’re trying to get us to remember the events of the pandemic differently than how those events actually unfolded? Have you ever experienced gaslighting on a personal level? What do you believe is the best way to handle this?

Author Daisy Luther is a coffee-swiggling, globe-trotting blogger, going by the name of The Organic Prepper. ★★★

## Continued from page 12 • Innocence and Punishment: The Aftermath of False Confessions

Approximately 30 state legislatures have now passed laws that require interrogations to be recorded.

However, some of these laws still need improvement. For instance, in 2017, legislators in New York made it mandatory for police to videotape interrogations, but laid out exceptions for homicide, sex offenses and drug cases.

“Those are the cases we need that the most,” Deskovic said. “[The requirement] is to reduce wrongful convictions caused by false confessions, so are we okay in making those exceptions that it’s saying to have a false confession in those cases? So, the bill that’s been introduced is going to close those exceptions.”

Laws that require interrogations to be documented via audio and/or video allow “judges [to] have a complete and accurate record of what transpired during the interrogation,” Drizin explained to The Crime Report.

“Without a record, the risks are too high that judges will simply believe the police narrative of what happened, and police officers, like all human beings, misremember things or, in the worst cases, lie about what tactics were used and who provided the details in the confession,” Drizin said.

Since Deskovic’s exoneration, he has become an advocate for much-needed reform efforts, some of which also include allowing testimony about false confessions in the courtroom and introducing an additional pre-trial hearing where the accuracy of a confession would be looked at by the judge to assess any red flags.

Since Deskovic was only sixteen at the time of his arrest, he and the advocacy group #Right2RemainSilent have been working to pass the Youth Interrogation Act.

The proposed legislation would make it so that anyone under the age of seventeen “would have to speak to a lawyer to have their rights explained to them before they can waive their

rights and speak to the police, recognizing that kids that age don’t understand their Miranda warnings,” Deskovic said.

Both Deskovic and Drizin agree that passing police deception bills would also help decrease false confessions from occurring, prohibiting police from lying to suspects that they have evidence that does not exist.

Police interrogations should only be permitted to last for four hours, Drizin suggests, explaining “that interrogations should not be held in the wee hours of the morning (to guard against sleep deprivation being a factor).” In Deskovic’s case, time was a factor that wore him down, leading to his false confession, so setting such limits would create a less adversarial environment in which lies are merely told out of exhaustion.

Even the lack of equality between prosecutors and defense attorneys, specifically public defenders, can skew the pursuit of justice.

“We need public defenders that have the

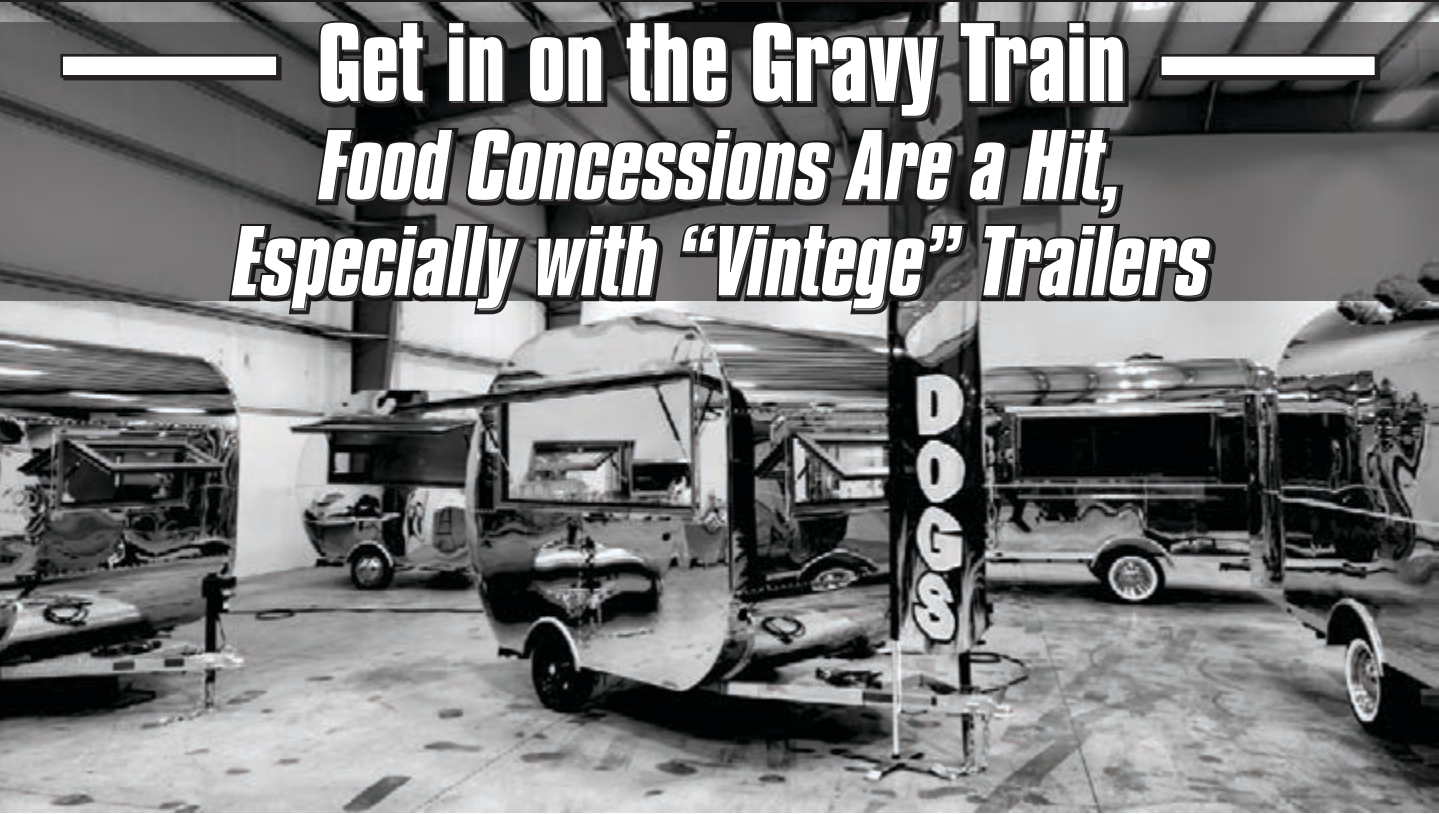
same budget and the same manpower as the district attorney’s office. We need to have equal pay for both sides,” Deskovic said. “Right now, it’s not equal, and I think that sends the message that the prosecutor’s job is more important when in reality both lawyers are essential.”

Yet, whether these changes are made still does not address the problem of accountability. When police and prosecutors build and win a case, resulting in the conviction of an innocent person, there are no penalties or consequences for robbing years from that person’s life.

“Any misconduct [prosecutors] do, if they do it after an arrest has been made, then they have absolute immunity,” Deskovic said. “We have a whole class of people that are in effect above the law.”

Although a perfect system can never exist, it is imperative that those who investigate crimes strive for justice, rather than solely pursue securing a conviction. ★★★





By Vintege Staff

In recent years, caused in great part by the pandemic, the foodservice industry has witnessed a surge in the popularity of concessions over traditional brick and mortar restaurants. Concessions refer to mobile food stands or trucks that offer a wide array of culinary delights. These mobile eateries provide numerous benefits to both entrepreneurs and consumers including:

**Mobility and Flexibility** - Mobility is key. Unlike brick and mortar establishments, concessions can be relocated to various locations based on demand. This flexibility allows vendors to adapt to changing customer patterns, cater to events, festivals, or busy areas with high foot traffic. They can be present at concerts, sports games, or even rotate between multiple spots, ensuring their offerings are accessible to a wider audience.

**Lower Overhead Costs** - Setting up a brick and mortar restaurant involves significant upfront costs, including purchasing or leasing a suitable location, renovating the space, and obtaining necessary permits. In contrast, concessions generally require a smaller initial investment. Entrepreneurs can purchase or lease a food truck or stand, which is a fraction of the cost compared to establishing a restaurant. Additionally, operational expenses such as utilities, rent, and maintenance are considerably lower for concessions, allowing for a higher profit margin.

**Enhanced Entrepreneurial Opportunities** - Concessions present a unique opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to enter the food industry with lower barriers to entry. Starting a brick and mortar restaurant often requires substantial experience, capital, and business acumen. Conversely, concessions offer a more accessible avenue for passionate cooks or food enthusiasts to launch their culinary ventures. The relatively lower costs and simplified logistics make concessions an attractive option for those looking to turn their passion into a profitable business.

**Diverse Culinary Offerings** - Concessions have gained a reputation for their ability to cater to diverse culinary preferences. Food trucks and stands can offer a wide range of cuisine, from global street food to specialized

gourmet offerings. This variety allows consumers to explore different flavors and experiences without the need to visit multiple restaurants. Furthermore, the mobile nature of concessions can introduce novel and unique food concepts to different areas, enhancing



culinary diversity in communities. **Engaging and Novel Dining Experience** - Concessions offer a more interactive and dynamic dining experience than traditional restaurants. Patrons can enjoy their meals in open-air settings, engage with vendors, and observe the food preparation process.



This direct interaction fosters a sense of connection between consumers and food providers, contributing to a memorable and engaging experience. Additionally, concessions often introduce creative and themed concepts, attracting food enthusiasts who seek novelty and excitement.

But how do you stand out in an industry that is clearly becoming as competitive as traditional restaurants?

First, you have to catch your

prospective customer’s eye. One company striving to give street food vendors the best first-glance attraction is VMI, LLC out of Grants Pass, Oregon and their “Vintege” line of products that have just hit the streets. They knocked it out of the park with their commercial-quality concession trailer line. Not only are the trailers visually striking, they’re incredibly durable due to their stainless steel interior and exterior.

Second, you have to know your market and provide top-quality food. Entrepreneurs who are budding food truck purveyors, should provide either a unique dining menu, or offer the best tasting choice around using the highest quality products. Pair this with establishing themselves where there is little to no direct menu competition like one of the many pop-up events or at a location like a brewery, where more-and-more they want food trucks to draw people to their facilities as a value added dining experience.

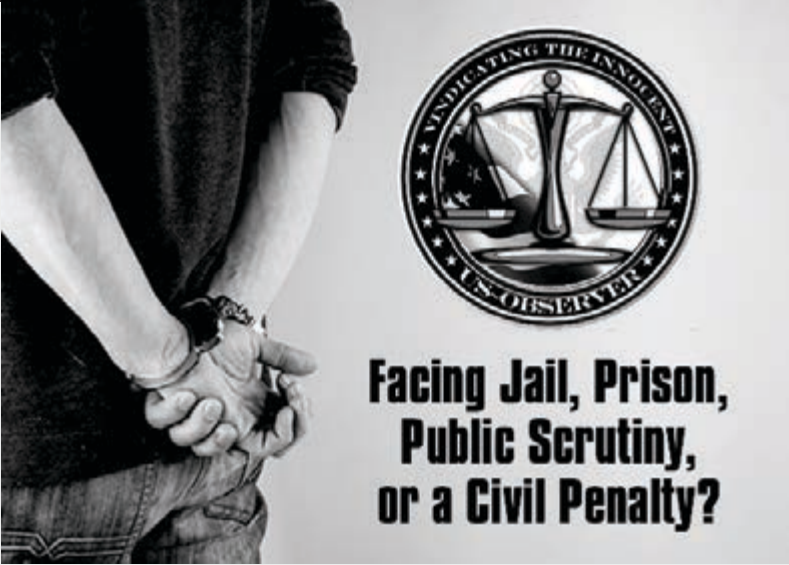
While the cost is lower to get into than investing in a traditional restaurant start-up, it is still important to get the highest quality truck or trailer you can. From the equipment inside, down to the wheels it’s rolling on, your concession equipment will be the backbone of your company.

Again, the guys at VMI, LLC have checked the boxes when it comes to providing a top-quality commercial kitchen space inside their trailers. You literally have to see them for yourself. These trailers should be the starting point for anyone wanting to jump into this exciting industry.

Bottom line, with their mobility, lower overhead costs, and ability to adapt to changing demands, concessions are poised to continue thriving in the modern food landscape. So, whether you’re a budding entrepreneur or an adventurous food lover, exploring the world of concessions can be a delightful journey worth embarking upon, especially with a Vintege trailer by VMI, LLC.

**Check out VMI, LLC’s website at [vintege.com](http://vintege.com). Or call to secure your trailer today - 541-295-8655. Tell them you saw them in the US~Observer.**

★★★



## If You’re in Trouble, We Help

By US~Observer Staff

Many people wonder how a newspaper can help a person facing criminal charges, or those who are being faced with being victimized in a civil issue.

People find it difficult to understand that maybe their first stop when they are falsely accused, charged or abused should be the US~Observer.

So... Why the US~Observer? The answer is quite simple. We win your case.

When an innocent person is charged with a crime, or taken advantage of civilly, the US~Observer conducts a thorough investigation. We obtain evidence that attorneys and licensed investigators cannot obtain because of the many licensing rules they must follow. We have no rules. When an innocent person’s life, freedom or property are in jeopardy, we expeditiously get to the truth and facts, no matter what it takes.

### CRIMINAL CASES

Concerning false criminal charges, when we have acquired conclusive evidence of innocence we go to the elected prosecutor responsible for filing those false charges, and give him/her the evidence. Then, we demand that they drop the false charges they have filed. If they refuse, we take them into our court – the court of public opinion. Here, the two things they are protective of, or are always concerned with, their reputation and career, become vulnerable.

When we publish about them and the specific abuse they have leveled at an innocent person the game changes. Publicly, they must face their friends, family and community – our court is where accountability begins.

The prosecutor soon finds that the one and only thing that he/she fears is exposure. When they are faced with losing their career and/or reputation they usually do the right thing and dismiss the false charges. If they don’t we escalate our exposure until they are forced to accept the truth – the facts!

Keep in mind that as we escalate our efforts publicly, any possible future jury pool is becoming aware of the false charge(s) as they read the facts on the front page of a national newspaper.

When prosecutors file charges they send press releases to the media. We do the exact same thing that prosecutors do except we publish absolute facts, obtained by conducting our thorough investigation; they often rush to judgment and release lies to the jury pool. They do this because it works and ensures them a conviction. We do this because it works and ensures the innocent person a dropped charge or an acquittal.

Again, at the end of the day the prosecutor either drops the false charge(s) or their reputation and career are demolished and they lose at trial. They lose because we were able to obtain crucial evidence that no one else could.

### CIVIL CASES

We handle civil cases in much the same manner as our criminal cases. If someone has stolen from you, whether it be your money, property, child or other, we give that person, agency or other the chance to return your property. Often, they comply because they cannot stand exposure – exposure can lead to possible criminal charges and huge civil damages payouts. Before long, they all either do the right thing and comply or they are ruined – ruined by the truth and facts.

If you are in trouble, don’t roll the dice with just an attorney.

### CRIMES UNANSWERED

Given the US~Observer’s track record of defeating false criminal charges, it stands to reason that the US~Observer is definitely the “Go To” when someone is getting away with a crime or dishonest action.

Do you know someone who should be in prison? Did they harm you? Steal from you? Abuse you or someone you know?

Did the justice system turn a blind eye? Were they seemingly above the law?

Contact the US~Observer – We will help ensure justice is served!

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**Go to [usobserver.com](http://usobserver.com) for references. Call 541-474-7885 if you need help.**

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The US~Observer's services have defeated over 5,000 false charges to-date.

# Are You Facing False Criminal Charges? Have You Been a Victim of False Prosecution?



## Welcome to the largest racket in history: The American Justice System

If you are facing prosecution for false charges then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry (racket) in America works. You (the innocent person) have been falsely charged with a crime. Most of the time you receive a myriad of stacked charges intended for the sole purpose of extracting a "plea bargain" from you.

You then rush to an attorney, pay him a huge retainer to cover the usual \$200.00 per hour (if not higher), which he/she charges, to supposedly defend your innocence. The attorney usually files some motions, writes some worthless letters and makes many unproductive (unless they pertain to you accepting a plea bargain) phone calls until you are broke. Generally, you haven't even started your trial and 99% of the time the attorney hasn't completed any investigation.

All of a sudden your attorney is telling you that you can't win your case and you should accept the benevolent plea bargain that the almighty prosecuting attorney has offered you. "Do you want to take the chance on spending 30-40 years in prison when you can plea bargain for 18 months," your attorney tells you. What happened to: "I think we can win this case, it's a good case." Remember? Isn't that pretty close to what your attorney told you as he/she was relieving you of your money?

You then accept a plea bargain and go to jail or you have a jury trial, you're found guilty (because your attorney hasn't produced enough evidence-if any and because the judge directs the jury to find you guilty) and then you go to jail. When you finally wake up you realize that on top of now being a criminal, you are flat broke and incarcerated. You find that the very person (your attorney) you frantically rushed to retain, became your worst enemy.

There is only one way to remedy a false prosecution: Obtain conclusive

evidence by investigating the accusers, the prosecutors – everyone involved with your case. In other words, complete an in-depth investigation before you are prosecuted and make the facts public, forcing a just outcome.

The US~Observer newspaper will not waste your time or your

money. This is not a game, it's your life and your freedom. We do not make deals. If you are innocent, then nobody has the right to steal what belongs to you, most of all, your liberty. Nobody! That includes your attorney - as well as your supposed public servants.

Why have a bad day when it's still possible to force justice ... right down their throats?

The US~Observer investigates cases for news. We want to win, just as you want to prove your innocence.

For justice sake, don't wait until they slam the door behind you before contacting us if you are innocent. Preventing a wrongful conviction is much easier than achieving a post-conviction exoneration.

**"One false prosecution is one too many,  
and any act of immunity is simply a government  
condoned crime." - Edward Snook, US~Observer**

**Call Us Today!  
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**If you prefer email:  
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*Faces of the*  
**US~Observer's**



**VINDICATED**

**Shawn Yoakum**  
Employment Discrimination

*"You changed my life forever,  
and made me want to help  
others. You did what you said  
you would."*

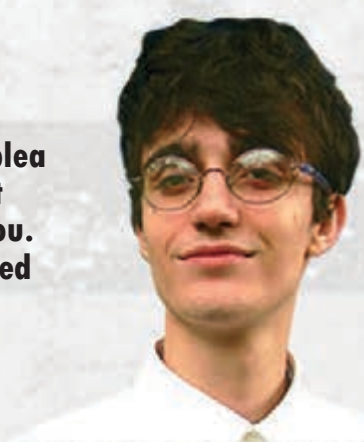
**Status: Compensated**



**Bryan Tucker**  
Sex Abuse

*"I would have taken the plea  
deal for crimes I didn't  
commit if it wasn't for you.  
Thank you. I was acquitted  
because of you."*

**Status: Acquitted**



**Dean Muchow**  
Government Abuse

*"Your investigative  
reporting was  
instrumental in stopping  
the District Attorney's  
abusive attacks."*

**Status: Cleared**



**Jessica Morton**  
Sex Abuse

*"If it wasn't for the US~Observer  
I would have lost everything; my  
freedom, my family. You made  
sure that didn't happen!"*

**Status: Dismissed**



**Jose Velasco-Vero**  
Felony Firearms Crimes

*"My case was the first of its  
kind. You absolutely defeated  
these unwarranted charges!"*

**Status: Dismissed**



**Ella Lee**  
Assault & Resisting Arrest

*"...no amount of reading can  
convey the heart, the sincerity and  
dedication of care you receive from  
these guys. Through their hard  
work, I got my dismissal papers  
today... So sweet it is."*

**Status: Dismissed**



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