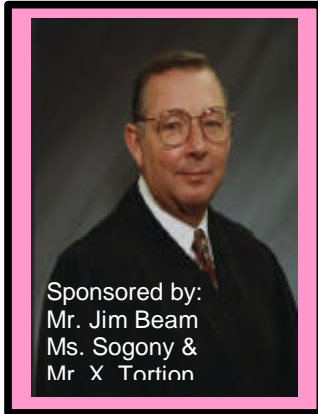


Judge Charles Cope Clearwater, Florida

2003 Ethical Leper-con Award Winner

By David Palmer
Judicial Watchdog



Charlie's sordid record while sitting on the bench in Pinellas County clearly indicates that he has spent his career dedicated to the total rejection of ethics.

In my review of hundreds of cases of judicial misconduct over the past several years, Charlie takes the cake for being a pompous buffoon.

This multi-faceted report details the obnoxious conduct of Cope in sexually assaulting a woman in Carmel, re-assaulting her during disciplinary proceedings, and then assaulting her again by filing a sham lawsuit against her and her mother in Monterey Superior Court in California.

Charlie is a misogynist, lush, womanizer, adulterer, liar, bully, egotist, pervert, sexist, peeping tom, drunk driver, and these are just his finer points, as you'll see from reading this report.

In my April 2003 newsletter, Charlie was the "inaugural" recipient of the prestigious "Judicial Drunk & Pervert Award" for his depraved conduct (is there another kind when it comes to Charlie?) while attending a so-called judicial conference in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California.

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Charlie's escapade in luxurious Carmel-by-the-Sea

While attending this so-called judicial conference in luxurious Carmel at taxpayer expense, Charlie decided it was time to do a little stalking to see if he could find some vulnerable women. Apparently, there was a shortage of prospective female victims available in the Clearwater area, so Charlie decided to take his "traveling pervert show" to Carmel to see how it would play.

Even though Charlie was married, he wasn't about to let this insignificant fact dissuade him from seeking an outlet for his perversions. Prior to stalking his prey, Charlie consulted with his close friends Jack Daniels and Igor Stolichnaya in an effort to seek their support for his upcoming adventure.

Armed with the unwavering support of Igor and Jack, Charlie set out on his mission to seek a victim to fulfill his perverted needs.

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Once on the prowl, Charlie happened upon Dr. Nina Jeanes and her 31-year-old daughter Lisa who were on vacation from New York.

According to reporter William Levesque of the *St. Petersburg Times*, the following then took place:

■ Police stopped all three while walking down the middle of a Carmel street early in the morning—all three being highly intoxicated.

■ The cops offered them a ride to their separate hotels; however, Charlie asked the cops to deposit 31-year old Lisa at his hotel while driving her mother back to her hotel room.

■ Lisa refused and she and her mother were then driven back to their hotel by the cops.

■ Charlie walked back to the women's hotel, which was several blocks away and asked Lisa to go for a walk on the beach.

■ During the walk, Charlie tried to kiss Lisa and touch her breasts, which caused her to flee.

■ The next morning, Charlie tried to enter the women's hotel room by using a key he stole from them earlier. The women said the chain on the door was the only thing that kept Charlie out of their room.

■ After the women called 911, Charlie fled and the cops stopped him walking a short distance away from their hotel.

Charlie was then criminally charged in Monterey with battery, prowling, peering into an inhabited dwelling (peeping Tom), aggravated trespassing and petty theft.

Unfortunately, Monterey Deputy DA Lisa Poll gave Charlie a pass on his criminal conduct in allowing him to plead

guilty to public intoxication, wherein he was fined a measly \$1,000 and credited 28 days that he had spent in rehab.

Judge Provides Cover for Charlie

After returning from Carmel, Charlie took pains to keep his criminal conduct from becoming public; however, the Carmel police called the Clearwater police who in turn reported it to State Attorney Bernie McCabe. McCabe then notified presiding Judge Susan Schaeffer (Charlie's boss) about Charlie's conduct. (*St. Pete Times*)

Supreme Court rules required Suzie to report Charlie's arrest to the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC); however, in her zeal to protect Charlie she failed to do so.

Suzie then called Charlie and told him to start thinking about reporting his arrest to the JQC. Charlie then asked Suzie "Do I have to do it right now (report to the JQC)? Can it wait?"

Suzie told the *Times* that Charlie said "I might as well jump off the Sunshine Skyway Bridge." Yeah, sure! Suzie knew this was Charlie's inept attempt at melodrama. She also knew Charlie was making a false promise just like he did to his wife years earlier when he vowed to be faithful.

Suzie then delved into deep-ethical thought about her duty to report Charlie and determined she wasn't gonna do it. Suzie told the *Times* that, she had leeway in not reporting Charlie, especially if she developed a plan for Charlie's alcoholism.

Of course Suzie couldn't cite any exceptions in the rules allowing her to develop an alcoholism plan for Charlie in lieu of reporting his arrest to JQC.

(Cont'd on page 3)

Suzie made a deal with Charlie that she would report his arrest to the JQC if he immediately saw an alcoholism counselor and followed his directions.

Suzie then assembled a trio of renowned judicial experts in dealing with boozehounds, which included from Scotland—the Hon. Glen Fiddich, representing Great Britain— Lord B.A. Beefeater, and last but not least, representing Ireland—the Hon. David Bushmills.

In defense of her misconduct by not reporting Charlie to the JQC, Suzie told the *Times* “It just seemed to me to be fair under the rules to buy him a little time and let him get his finances in order and let him report later.”

Suzie further defended her misconduct by telling the *Times* that [she was trying to buy time for a judge in pain](#). Charlie in pain? Give me a break Suzie! How can you suffer any pain when you’re in a drunken stupor half of the time?

And what punishment did Suzie receive for failing to report Charlie? The JQC “privately scolded” her. Whew, I bet that was painful.

Charlie’s “Rasputinesque” Defense



Judge (I can't Cope) Rasputin

After the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission filed misconduct charges against him, Charlie decided it was time to become even more offensive than usual, I mean to go on the offensive.

Not satisfied with victimizing Lisa and Nina in Carmel, Charlie figured they deserved to be re-victimized in his obscene and inept portrayal of his mentor, the infamous “Judge Rasputin.”

To assure victory in his battle with the Judicial Commission, Charlie employed attorney Bob Merkle, to defend him. At first Bob thought it might be wise if Charlie incorporated the celebrated “Cope-a-Dope” defense; however, Charlie declined.

Bobby and Charlie then employed the services of an investigator to invade Lisa’s privacy by digging into her past. They attempted to take the depositions of Lisa’s former boyfriends and virtually anyone who knew Lisa, all in a disgusting attempt to put Lisa on trial before the JQC and not Charlie.

Bobby and Charlie thought they hit pay dirt when they discovered that Lisa had previously had an abortion. Only a “desperate desperado” like Charlie would even consider attacking a women’s credibility on such an inane and irrelevant (clearly private) matter.

During the trial before the JQC, Merkle treated Lisa with total disdain as he attempted to paint her as the villain and Charlie as a sympathetic victim.

Merkle was allowed to invade Lisa’s privacy by asking questions having absolutely nothing to do with Charlie’s innocence or guilt. In any other courtroom setting, Merkle would have been prohibited from torturing Lisa by questioning her in such a manner.

In cementing his position as a demented misogynist, Charlie said of Lisa; “That woman is no more vulnerable than a rattlesnake.” (*St. Petersburg Times*)

Charlie then decided to attack the JQC special counsel appointed to prosecute him by saying, “I’ve never seen a prosecutor put on a witness (Lisa) he knows is lying.” Oh, sure you have Charlie! What about your performance on the witness stand?

[\(Cont’d on page 4\)](#)

Your false testimony should have been supported with background music from that oldie but goodie “Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire.”

When it comes to protecting one of their own, the rules on civility in the courtroom, fairness to the victim, and the search for the truth are dispensed with. After all, the bottom line here was for the JQC to assure that the outcome would be favorable for good ol’ Charlie.

As could be expected, the members of this so-called judicial commission gave Charlie a “public reprimand,” which is like a Soccer Mom publicly scolding her son for misbehaving on the field. What’s the point?

Making matters worse, the apologists and enablers sitting on this commission had the chutzpah to find Charlie’s testimony more credible than Lisa’s even though Charlie was arrested for drunk driving (DUI) in Naples in 1996. How is it possible for a “serial drunk” to be more credible than the victim of his drunken escapades?

Well folks, it only happens when enablers and apologists of Charlie’s fraternity are the ones sitting in judgment of an admitted “judicial dipsomaniac.” That’s how!

Cope’s attempt to collect \$389,000

Not satisfied with escaping any real punishment for his criminal conduct (should have been disbarred) by the Judicial Commission and jailed in California, Charlie then tried to fleece Florida’s taxpayers by demanding \$389,000 for fees/costs he claims attorney Merkle billed for defending him before the JQC.

I’m kind of wondering where Charlie came up with the money to pay Merkle \$389,000. After all, after he returned

from Carmel he told Judge Suzie he didn’t have any funds to hire an attorney?

Luckily for the taxpayers of Florida, the JQC told Charlie to take a hike regarding his demand for \$389,000.

Charlie the Family Court Judge

The Pinellas County Court website discloses that as we speak, Charlie continues to sit on the Family Court.

This fact in and of itself speaks volumes for the Florida Judiciary’s total disregard (actual contempt) for the welfare of women seeking equity and justice when involved in marital disputes in the Pinellas County Family Court.

What kind of mentality are we dealing with here that would allow an acknowledged misogynist, womanizer, adulterer and boozehound to sit in judgment of women in a Family Court?

Can you imagine Charlie’s response when women come before him complaining about spousal abuse? What do you think Charlie’s response would be to the following complaint emanating from an abused woman?

Abused Wife: Your Honor, my husband has been unfaithful to me for years. He thinks it’s acceptable to travel to business seminars and carouse with other women. In addition, Your Honor, he’s an admitted drunk. My three daughters and me cannot live like this any more, Your Honor.

Charlie: Well, Mam, what’s your point?

When do the rights of female victims of spousal abuse in Clearwater, Florida supplant those of an admitted drunk, liar, pervert and misogynist?

Sham lawsuit against Lisa Jeanes

Sometime prior to Aug. 2003, Charlie employed the services of an attorney named Charles G. Warner of Monterey, California for the purposes of filing a “sham” lawsuit (Case No. 66165, Monterey County Superior Court) against Lisa and her mother Nina.

Not satisfied with victimizing Lisa and Nina in Carmel in 2001, Charlie decided he was going and attempting to destroy Lisa’s reputation before the JQC in 2002, Charlie decided it was time to re-victimize them by suing them in Monterey.

As could be expected Charlie didn’t have a problem in locating an unethical lawyer in California to pursue his frivolous and clearly punitive lawsuit.

Charlie is suing Lisa and Nina to collect the \$389,000 in legal fees and costs he claims he paid and/or owes to attorney Merkle and for “lost wages.” In addition, he is suing for punitive damages by asserting that Lisa and Nina acted without probable cause, maliciously and for an improper purpose when they reported Charlie’s criminal conduct to the Carmel police.

Charlie then intentionally lies in his lawsuit by falsely stating at ¶ 7 of page 5 that, “All charges against plaintiff were favorably terminated in his favor.” It is undisputed that the JQC found Charlie guilty of repeatedly being drunk in public and of inappropriate sexual contact with Lisa. Moreover, he pled guilty to criminal charges in Monterey.

Charlie and his attorney also falsely claimed in their lawsuit that Charlie “suffered wage loss” as a result of Lisa and Nina’s conduct in reporting him to the Carmel police.

This is bald-faced fabrication and Charlie and his unethical attorney know

it. It is undisputed that shortly after his return from Carmel that, Charlie went on a one-year “paid” leave of absence and was also feeding at the public trough while attending rehab programs.

This is further evidence of a demented mind that is willing to say and do anything to unjustly enrich himself at the expense of others and to portray his victims as victimizers.

If you’re looking for confirmation of Charlie’s serial lying, then go on the Web at www.google.com and just type in Judge Charles Cope.

Letter to Chief Justice Anstead

The following is a letter sent to Harry Lee Anstead, Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court by e-mail and snail mail on Jan. 13, 2004.

Dear Chief Justice:

In Aug. 2003, Cope filed a lawsuit in Monterey County Superior Court in California against Lisa and Nina Jeanes who were the unfortunate victims of his drunken and sexual escapades in Carmel in 2001. (Cont’d on page 6)

In his lawsuit Cope falsely makes a claim for “lost wages,” a claim that you personally know to be a total fabrication. In addition, he falsely claims that all charges by the JQC and Carmel DA were “terminated in his favor.”

Cope has single-handedly brought the entire judiciary into disrepute with his continued criminal and/or quasi-criminal behavior. It was indeed a sad day when the JQC decided to give the proverbial “wink and a nod” to Cope’s egregious misconduct by imposing a public reprimand upon him. This laughable punishment has resulted in Cope continuing to treat his oath of office with unmitigated contempt.

Is it any wonder that Floridians continue to lose confidence in the judiciary? When the judicial system is more concerned about members of its fraternity than it is about future victims of "Copitis," then we can surely expect a further erosion of public confidence.

In order that you can better appreciate the evil intentions of Cope, I would invite you to go to my website at www.noethics.org and click onto "Florida Reporter" and then click onto "2003-Ethical Leper-Con Award Winner" to review my story detailing the misconduct involving Warner and his so-called client Judge Cope.

If your office continues to allow Cope to remain on the bench, then I'm confident that we will be witness to even more "Copitisms" in the future.

[Bar complaint v. Charlie](#)

Below is a copy of a complaint sent by e-mail and snail mail to the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission regarding Charlie's misconduct.

[Brooke S. Kimmerly](#)
[Executive Director, JQC](#)

Rather than repeat herein the egregious nature of Cope's continuing misconduct, all of which emanates from his prior criminal conduct and victimization of Lisa Jeanes in Carmel, California in 2001, I have attached hereto a letter sent to Chief Justice Anstead for your review.

In addition, I would suggest that you visit my website at www.noethics.org and click onto "Florida Reporter" and then click onto "2003-Ethical Leper-Con Award Winner" to review my story detailing Cope's conduct.

I think maybe it's about time that ol' Charlie is given the boot! Anyone that believes that ol' Charlie doesn't deserve to be disrobed likely would believe that Jeffrey Dahmer turned down an offer to be a columnist for Gourmet magazine.

[Bar complaint v. Charlie's lawyer](#)

The following is a letter complaining about Monterey attorney Charles (another Charlie) G. Warner's misconduct is filing false claims against Lisa and Nina Jeanes, which was sent by e-mail and snail mail on the 13th.

[California Bar Association](#)
[Los Angeles, CA](#)

Find attached hereto a letters I have sent to the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission and the presiding judge in Monterey regarding the misconduct of Warner and his client Judge Charles Cope of Clearwater, FL regarding a lawsuit now pending in Monterey Superior Court

In that lawsuit, Mr. Warner knowingly put forth false and fabricated claims that Cope had suffered lost wages and that all charges lodged against him by the Carmel DA and the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission had been "terminated in his favor."

It is undisputed that Warner knew or should have known that these claims were patently false; however, in his obvious zeal to enrich himself by attempting to extort monetary concessions from the defendants, he chose to violate the Code of Professional Responsibility.

Rather than drone on here, I would invite you to review my website at www.noethics.org and click onto "Florida Reporter" and then click onto "2003-Ethical Leper-Con Award Winner" to review my story detailing the misconduct involving Warner and his so-called client Judge Cope.

If you require any further information please let me know. Please provide me with a copy of Mr. Warner's response to this complaint.

Letter to Monterey Superior Court

Below is a copy of a complaint mailed to presiding judge Terrance R. Duncan of the Monterey Superior Court on the 13th.

Judge Terrance R. Duncan
Re: Sham filing in Case No. M-66165

Recently attorney Charles Warner filed a malicious prosecution on behalf of Judge Charles Cope of Clearwater, Florida against Lisa and Nina Jeanes of New York.

In the lawsuit, Cope and Warner “falsely” assert that Cope suffered “lost wages” and that all charges lodged against him by the Carmel DA in 2001 and the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission were “terminated in his favor.” Such assertions are totally false and as you know in violation of the California Code of Professional Responsibility.

In order that you can better appreciate the Cope’s evil intentions, I would invite you to go to my website at www.noethics.org and click onto “Florida Reporter” and then click onto “2003-Ethical Leper-Con Award Winner” to review my story detailing the misconduct involving Warner and his so-called client Judge Cope.

In addition, a call to Chief Justice Anstead and the Judicial Qualifications Commission in Florida along with a call to the Carmel DA should suffice to prove the falseness of Cope and Warner’s claims.

I would respectfully suggest that you conduct a “show cause” hearing to allow Warner and Cope to explain why the court should not find them in contempt for their despicable conduct. Furthermore, this sham/frivolous and punitive lawsuit should be dismissed “with prejudice” and Warner and Cope ordered to pay the defendants’ legal expenses.

It’s time to send carpetbaggers such as Cope a message they won’t soon forget when they deem it appropriate to “forum shop” in an effort to dupe yet another court

in an ongoing scheme to again victimize Lisa and Nina Jeanes.

Conclusion

Wouldn’t it be nice if Lisa could dispense a little dose of justice to Charlie? After all Lisa is a licensed veterinarian; therefore, she obviously has experience dealing with animals.

Please, no protest letters from PETA. I certainly don’t mean to demean members of the animal kingdom by equating them with Charlie.

Too bad that Lisa’s physician-mother isn’t a practicing proctologist, because if she was she could advise Lisa’s attorney on a proper rebuttal to Charlie’s sham lawsuit.

Hopefully, the powers-to-be in Florida and maybe Judge Duncan in Monterey will display the necessary courage and fortitude and do us all a favor and forever bar Charlie from sitting on the bench or practicing law.

Charlie has proven beyond all doubt that he no longer deserves to sit in judgment of any Floridian. Enough is enough!
