

Judges held to lower standard of conduct

In Jan 2008, Ms. Patricia Vincent of Reno, Nevada was charged with 2 felonies by the U.S. Attorney for cutting down 3 trees on government-owned property. The letters below will prove that Ms. Vincent is being held to a “higher standard of conduct” than California Judge Peter McBrien and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals judge (Seattle) Jerome Farris who engaged in the same type of conduct.

The letters below were sent to the U.S. Attorney prosecuting Ms. Vincent and the U.S. Magistrate Judge that is presiding over the case in hopes that they would take affirmative steps to assure that Ms. Vincent is in fact held to a “lower standard of conduct” than the judicial misfits that did much more damage than Ms. Vincent. Only time will tell if Ms. Vincent is held to a “higher standard of conduct” than Judges Peter McBrien and/or Judge Jerome Farris.



Dave Palmer
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April 15, 2008

Gregory A. Brower
U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada

Re: Ms. Patricia Vincent

Dear Mr. Brower:

I recently discovered that Ms. Vincent was indicted and charged on Jan 16 with two felonies for cutting down 3 trees on public lands. In a press release, you said, “Individuals who unlawfully encroach on these lands [public] and cause damage will be prosecuted.”

The purpose of this letter is to assure that Ms. Vincent is held to a “lower standard of conduct” than that of Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Peter (Chainsaw) McBrien and 9th Circuit Judge Jerome Farris were held to for engaging in similar conduct. I trust you are aware of the judiciary’s oft-repeated and hyperbolic mantra of “We’re held to a higher standard of conduct.”

In 1999, Judge McBrien laid waste to 4 large oak trees that were 50 feet tall and 80 years old that were sitting on County property. He engaged in this felonious conduct in order to improve his view of the American River. He was originally charged with a felony; however, because he was

held to a “higher standard of conduct,” the charge was reduced to a misdemeanor within 48-hours and he was allowed to pay a fine of \$20,000 even though the value of his home increased by \$100,000 (\$80,000 profit). The California Supreme Court punished McBrien by giving him a complimentary public admonishment.

In 2002, Judge Farris ordered that 120 big-leaf maples and indigenous cherry trees in a public park be cut down to improve his view of Lake Washington. In assuring that Farris would be held to a “higher standard of conduct,” no criminal charges were filed and he was allowed to pay a \$500,000 fine. Farris’ 2003 Financial Disclosure Report shows that he had a net worth of between \$1.8 and \$3.8 million, which doesn’t include his residence with the new and improved view of Lake Washington. The Farris fine of \$500,000 would have represented about 13% of his net worth (\$3.8 million) or 28% (\$1.8 million).

I am not privy to Ms. Vincent’s net worth; however, I would imagine that it is less than Farris’ or McBrien’s. In any event, it is imperative in the interest of justice and to assure that Ms. Vincent is “held to a lower standard of conduct,” I would respectfully suggest that she be punished by any of the following means or a combination thereof:

1. Felony charges dismissed ala Judge Farris
2. Felony charges reduced to misdemeanors ala Judge McBrien.
3. A public reprimand (spanking) administered by Smokey the Bear.
4. Attendance at a “tree victimization” seminar held in Aspen in Jan.
5. Award her \$20,000 per tree which is what McBrien received for cutting 4 trees

Had Ms. Vincent contacted the Dawg prior to cutting down these trees, I would have advised her to employ a judge (preferably from the 9th Circuit) with experience wielding a chainsaw (Judge McBrien comes to mind) or axe in order to avoid any real punishment if ya know what I mean.

Neither McBrien nor Farris ever served any time for their felonious conduct. However, Ms. Vincent faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine on both counts. If in fact she is convicted and sentenced to any prison time, it will prove beyond all doubt that she was “held to a higher standard of conduct” than McBrien and Farris. In fact, it will prove that there are no standards when it comes to judges engaging in felonious conduct.

In the case of Judge McBrien, he remains on the bench pulling down an annual salary of \$178,789 + an assortment of generous perks. Judge Farris now earns \$179,500 as a part-time senior judge. According to the *Federal Judicial Center*, the average senior judge works six (6) hours a week, meaning Farris’ true hourly and yearly wages are \$623 and \$1.3 million respectively. If this is punishment, how can I apply? Moreover, I’ve got a lot of friends and readers that would be more than happy to volunteer.

I cannot imagine that in good conscience that after reviewing the facts set forth herein that you could or would not immediately consider dropping the felony charges against Ms. Vincent. Moreover, I believe an appropriate punishment would be for the court to order her to replace the 3 trees she cut down along with a fine of \$1500. Anything more would only further prove that “we the people” are in fact held to a “higher standard of conduct” than judges.

Lastly, if there is any additional information or facts you require regarding any matter addressed herein, please do not hesitate to drop me a line.

Dave Palmer
The Watchdawg



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April 15, 2008

U.S. Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke
U.S. District Court – Reno, Nevada

Re: Patricia Vincent

Dear Judge Cooke:

Please find attached hereto a copy of a letter to US Attorney Gregory Broward that was faxed this date to Ms. Natalie Collins, Public Affairs Specialist for the US Department of Justice in Las Vegas.

I trust that after reviewing the undisputed facts set forth in the Broward letter that you will conclude that in the interest of justice and to assure that Ms. Collins is indeed held to a “lower standard of conduct” than Judges McBrien and Farris that you will put appropriate pressure on the US Attorney to do the right thing. When I say the right thing, I mean that the felony charges should be dropped and Ms. Valentine ordered to pay the cost of replanting the 3 trees she removed. Of course an appropriate fine of say \$1500 should also be imposed.

If there is anything I can personally do to assure that justice is actually dispensed in this case and not dispensed with, please do not hesitate to drop me a line.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Palmer
The Watchdawg



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April 15, 2008

Ms. Natalie Collins
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney – District of Nevada
(702) 388-6296 (fax)

Re: Patricia Vincent

Dear Ms. Collins:

Please find attached hereto letters addressed to the attention of US Attorney Gregory Brower and US Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke regarding the prosecution of Ms. Natalie Collins. As to Judge Cooke, please provide her with a copy of my letter to US Attorney Brower.

I researched the Internet but could not locate the fax numbers for Mr. Brower or Judge Cooke. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you would forward the letter to both of them due to my expressed concerns that Ms. Vincent is apparently being held to a “higher standard of conduct” in regards to the felonious destruction of government property than was Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Peter (Chainsaw) McBrien and 9th Circuit Judge Jerome Farris.

Thanks for your time and anticipated forwarding of the attached letters.

Dave Palmer
The Watchdawg
