

Gray Communications Systems
WJHG TV
Attn: Tracy Connors, General Manager
8195 Front Beach Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32407

June 22, 2007

850-234-7777
850-233-6647 FAX

RE: June 21, 2007 False and Defamatory Publication by WJHG on the Internet
June 22, 2007 Correction

I am very pleased to report that your correction on June 22, 2007 on the air, and on the Internet, has convinced me to give you notice that I DO NOT intend to sue over the false publications of June 21, 2007. In addition, I express my deepest gratitude to Tom Lewis for his efforts in the correcting and discussing and coordinating the matter with me. I need you on my team and on the side of the citizens of this county who want honest government.

I am a citizen that needs the help of the media to hold a judge accountable for a pattern of dishonesty and deception, and for colluding with others to have me barred from a state courthouse using fraud and deception as his weapon of retaliation, because in part I filed a Bar Complaint against him before he was a judge for falsifying records in the custody of Guy Tunnell and the Bay County Sheriff's Office and because in part due to my opposition to his former legal client, Guy Maxwell Tunnell, for his participation in, and authorization of, the harassment and violent attack on the predominantly African-American Sun Dancer business during 1997-1998, and particularly the violent attack against the Sun Dancer and its African-American patrons on New Years Day, January 1, 1998.

I served my country in the U.S. Air Force with honors. I was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal when I left Tyndall Air Force Base, presented to me by the Commanding Officer of the Naval Coastal Systems Center when I was hired there as a civilian electrical engineer, GS-12. At Eglin Air Force Base I received the highest possible ratings as an Electrical Engineer and Air Force Officer. I graduated from the University of New Hampshire, and the ROTC program there, with cum laude honors. From 1995 through circa 2003 I raised two daughters, and a grandson, as a single parent. My older daughter is currently serving her country in Korea as a munitions technician in the U.S. Air Force. I pray to God that she will not be assigned to Iraq. She is guaranteed a return assignment to Eglin AFB when she leaves Korea. Judge Hess has repeatedly, through fraud, tried to destroy this reputation and picture of Kevin Wood.

I obtained custody of my children, pro se, in great part because of domestic violence between my ex-wife and her new husband, Charles William Woodard. I provided a safe, secure, and stable environment for them to continue their schooling. Both of my daughters were award winning Teen Court volunteers in Bay County, held at the Bay County Courthouse on Tuesday evenings. I attended those proceedings, on occasion, and felt great pleasure and pride in observing my children serving their community as clerks and attorneys. Judge Hess put a stop to that after 1998 and for years I was denied that pleasure and intimacy with my children.

My 19-page complaint before the Leon County Grand Jury, JQC, FDLE, and the Special Prosecutor summarizes some of the rest. I pray that Judge Hess will now be held accountable, and Guy Tunnell, or others, for their complicity.

Respectfully Submitted,

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RE: June 21, 2007 False and Defamatory Publication by WJHG on the Internet
INTENT TO SUE FOR LIBEL and DEFAMATION

I regret to inform you that pursuant to Section 770.01 Florida Statutes that I am notifying you that an employee of your company published a false and defamatory story on the Internet (see attached), with the clear appearance of intent to be a personal and public hatchet job to turn the public against me involving an official state and federal investigation of public misconduct in Bay County. Can you please advise me in a written response who published the article?

You published this story knowing it to be false and after I had provided you with the 19-page complaint (summary of judicial and criminal conduct involving Judge Glenn L. Hess, Guy Tunnell, et al.) that is pending investigation by the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC), the Leon County Grand Jury, and now with Special Prosecutor Jerry Blair.

First, in the story you falsely state, "Wood claims Judge Hess barred Wood from the courthouse after employees claimed Wood walked into unauthorized areas to search for court records..." This is blatantly false as the 19-page complaint reflects (see attached). I was barred from the courthouse because I was attending attorney-client meetings with the Sun Dancer defendants, with the consent of the Sun Dancer defendants and their public defenders, to keep them and their attorneys informed of evidence relevant to their defenses under the federal Younger v. Harris abstention doctrine. In the last decade nobody has ever alleged, that I know of, that it was "to search for court records." This appears to be completely made up by your company. If you do have a source, please provide me that source in your written reply to me. Again, this defames me to the public as false light to plant in their minds an image of a person sneaking into dark rooms of the courthouse to "search for records." This needs to be fixed.

As my complaint reads, the morning of April 16, 1998, about 8:00 am, Judge Hess, Deputy Mark Sowell, and Jury Clerk Gloria Walker met and a decision was made between them that I had "got to go." This was reflected in the sworn testimony of these three at my trespass depositions and trial. A confrontation was set up by the three in anticipation that I would again be attending the Sun Dancer pretrial and attorney client meetings. Judge Hess directed Sowell and Walker to post a sign to "filter" me from the meeting. I was at the time representing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Northwest Florida Coalition for Human Rights and Dignity, and UNITED (Unified Neighbors Insisting Termination of Enforcement Discrimination). I was also acting a liaison between the Sun Dancer victims and the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Office of Coordination and Review, Agent Wonder Moore-Davis in the filing of about a dozen formal civil rights complaints.

The slap thrown into the story that I am a "self-proclaimed" community activist" belies the credibility of your company to report instead that I am currently a member of the NAACP and had been sworn into the Bay County Chapter of Southern Christian Leadership Conference as an officer by Martin Luther King, and that since the 1980's have had repeated civil rights successes including Eglin Air Force Base (EEOC Investigation that found substantial problems), Naval Coastal Systems Center (Navy IG Investigation that substantiated my allegations of sexual harassment and the failure of officials to respond in Hotline Case 90084), and many other successes. My purported status as an "activist" is "proclaimed" by the media, not I. When I was an Air Force officer I suppose you would be a "self proclaimed" activist for fighting to preserve the constitutional right of the citizens of this country. Now that I belong to organizations that "fight" for the rights of African-American and other citizens, I am all of a sudden now a "self proclaimed activist" because instead of belonging to the U.S. Air Force, I then belonged to the SCLC, NAACP, or other organizations that "fight" for "rights." The fight for constitutional rights remains the same, the organization has just changed. When a responsible citizen leaves the military, he does not stop fighting for constitutional rights of his neighbors.

Second, in the story you falsely state, "Wood claims Judge Hess lied about who approved the banishment." This allegation is nowhere to be found in my complaint or other material sent to you and was made up by you.

Your other slap referencing "Wood secretly tape recording his conversations with public officials" is also defamatory because it misleads the public to believe that such conduct is illegal or wrong rather leading the public to understand that such conduct is a right under the First Amendment and is legal under Florida and federal law. And, that Section 934.10(2) provides a complete defense to any civil, criminal, or administrative charges if state or federal law permits the conduct.

It is matter of public record and prior media reports that I have won every "recording" case that I have been involved in and that these recordings have been successfully used as evidence in civil and criminal cases. It is also a matter of public record that Bay County citizen Randy Fowler was illegally arrested for recording a conversation with State Attorney Jim Appleman but that Circuit Judge Don Sirmons dismissed the charges finding Mr. Fowler had a right to record his conversations with public officials to protect himself. Subsequently, Mr. Fowler was arrested by Panama City Police officers for "recording" his conversation with them. Judge Welch through out those charges based on the prior Sirmons ruling.

It is pure negligence on the part of your company not to report on the truth of the right of citizens to make these recordings to protect themselves from either false accusations or perjury by public officials in later court proceedings. And to instead defame citizens by mischaracterizing these lawful acts as "secretly tape recording."

As a prime example of the need to record conversations with public officials, particularly law enforcement, one need not look further than Deputy Mark Sowell. I recorded the April 16, 1998 confrontation with Deputy Sowell where Sun Dancer defendant Taboria Hill and I were standing in line outside the designated conference room being used by public defender Tyrone May to meet with his misdemeanor clients. When Deputy Sowell pointed out the new sign and told me to leave I challenged this order as an unlawful order because I had the consent of the client, Taboria Hill, to attend the meeting with her attorney. My dialog with Sowell was recorded, as was Ms. Hill telling Sowell she consented to me accompanying her. At a later deposition Deputy Sowell was handed a

copy of a typed transcript of the tape and his statements along with mine and Ms. Hill's. Earlier in the deposition he stated under oath that he had no recollection that Ms. Hill had consented. I have a copy of that deposition if you wish to review it or I can email it to you. After reading the verbatim transcript Sowell testified, again under oath, "That's not what I said. That's nowhere near what I said." I then produced the tape and it was played. Without any prompt, Sowell responded, "Word for word." Sowell was never prosecuted by the state for perjury.

Without the tape, Sowell could have gotten away with perjury. For your station to paint the citizen who records their conversations such as this to protect themselves as the wrongdoer is outrageous. Yes, there is generally a perception by some that "secret recordings" are despicable. Planting a tape recorder in someone's bedroom to be later recovered is despicable. Recording a conversation with an officer of the court, and a law enforcement officer, who later would have committed perjury and got away with it but for the "recording", is not despicable by any reasonable standard. Your company needs to clarify this to the public. The reference to recording in your story was a despicable hatchet job calculated to deceive the public. This needs to be corrected and explained to the public so that they can understand this.

The damaging and defamatory nature of the article and its influence on your readers is amplified by the one comment you posted at the bottom by R.J. of Grand Ridge, FL that, "*This is just another example of wasteful spending of tax dollars.*" If another reader comments, "*If the evidence shows Judge Hess falsified records, or caused or procured their falsification, to bar a citizen from court proceedings and services, then he should be held accountable and removed from office for failing to uphold the integrity of the office of judge*" I have doubts that you would post this to the public on your site.

The 19-page complaint that was presented to you and pending before authorities is not a "wasteful spending of tax dollars" and had you published the true elements of the complaint, rather than a hatchet job, R.J. may have reconsidered his response.

The complaint alleges that Judge Hess had repeatedly since 1994 made false statements in public records, or caused or procured others to falsify those records, in part through wire fraud, as a scheme or artifice to defraud my children and I of the right of access to proceedings and services of the Bay County Courthouse.

As the complaint alleges, in one instance Judge Hess and Guy Tunnell and his department conspired to authorize two thugs to keep my minor and daughter and I from a child support contempt proceeding against Wayne Mincey, who when 18, sexually assaulted my then 12 year old child resulting a pregnancy and the birth of my grandson whom I raised, with my two daughters, as a single parent. The contempt proceeding was dismissed because I did not show. A motion for rehearing was filed and about three months I finally got into the hearing and Mincey was held in contempt, jailed, and we got our back child support. Hess and Tunnell had violated state and federal criminal law, particularly 18 U.S.C. 241 and 242, to obstruct justice in the child support case. Hess then lied to WMBB reporter Chris Mitchell that I was not a party to the action and that the case had nothing to do with me when at Judge Hess's fingertips he had the docket of Clerk Harold Bazzel that listed me as a plaintiff in the case and as GAONB (Guardian and/or Next Best Friend).

This act more than any by Hess and Tunnell, and his department, should be at the top priority of your reporting on the complaint now pending before the Special Prosecutor. If this case has to go forward as a libel case, which I do not want to do, this letter will serve as proof of notice, as would the attached complaint, that your intent is not to do a public service by aiding in the disclosure of public corruption, particularly criminal corruption, but to the contrary your intent is do a hatchet job instead on the citizen is exposing the corruption.

What has now accelerated this investigation against Judge Hess, and by association Guy Tunnell, is the November 2006 release of the December 1997-January 1998 Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) records that were clearly falsified by OSCA personnel, but caused in great part to be falsified by Judge Hess. Those records have been substantially reviewed by FDLE to date as to the falsifications and misrepresentations and in the next couple of days a report is going to be made on that matter for review at FDLE in Tallahassee and coordination with the Special Prosecutor and Grand Jury. The Special Prosecutor is already aware of the pending report.

Pursuant to Section 770.02 Florida Statutes I feel that you have an obligation to print an apology, correction, and retraction. In other words, you have an obligation to report the truth of what true allegations are being made in the 19-page summary and to summarize these allegations yourself and print that information in a manner that is representative of the complaint, that informs the public, and that certainly does not mislead the public as your previous article has. You may also consider publishing the 19 page summary on your site. This would show good faith. The correction should also report that recording public officials to hold them accountable, as the media does all the time, is an equal right of the citizens and there is nothing wrong with it. It is wrong for Judge Hess or other public officials to stop citizens or the media from exercising this right, particularly under threat of arrest. Courtroom proceedings are a different matter and there are rules that apply to recordings under the time, place and manner standard.

While the statute requires that the apology, correction and retraction be made within ten (10) days after service of this notice, I would respectfully hope that you would act much quicker before the current article is broadcast on the Internet to a much larger base. My intent is not to turn this into litigation but to solve the problem and get on with it and for your company to fairly cover the progress of the investigation of Judge Hess, Guy Tunnell, or others. If the apology, correction and retraction appear suitably, I will provide you written notice of intent not to sue on this issue. I would appreciate discussing this matter with you as soon as you receive this notice.

Respectfully Submitted,


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