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National Public Radio - NPR NEWS
All Things Considered
?
Washington, D.C. 20220

RE: January 12th, 2005, Broadcast Article on the Death Penalty

Dear NPR/All Things Considered,

I love your programs and listen almost everyday. A true luxury here on the Texas Death Row. Yesterday I heard your segment on the Death Penalty with the Sister who wrote the book, Dead Man Walking. What caught my interest was the Sister's telling of the execution of her friend Dobby, in 1999 by the State of Louisiana. An extremely tragic event.

In that same year my former wife, a Michelle LaBorde (a.k.a. Michelle Ward, Michelle Clayton, Michelle Battaglia, and most recently as Professor Michelle Ward Ghetti) was and may still be a Professor of Law at the Southern University of Louisiana, Law School, in Baton Rouge. During that year I had a phone conversation with Professor Ghetti regarding our daughter, Christie, and the subject of money came up; her wanting more from me. In that context I inquired about her status and remuneration at the University Law School and other income she may be earning from the practice of law or consulting outside of her teaching activities.

Professor Ghetti informed me that her employment terms precluded her from earning any moneys from the practice of law or consulting, but she added (and with some amount of pride I might add) that she earned a little extra money on the side from the State of Louisiana for the preparation of Briefs for prisoners about to be executed by the State. I was taken aback by this claim. My personal knowledge of Professor Ghetti since 1984 was that she was more akin to the manifestation of a Deamon in the form of a human female, than say an Angel of Mercy (that I think was the guest on your radio segment.)

So I questioned Professor Ghetti as to why, now, she was in the business of preventing some one, and most likely a Black someone, from being executed. Whereupon, she immediately corrected my misperception and stated that she wasn't trying to save the prisnor from execution, but that in fact she was being paid by the State of Louisiana to draft the Briefs for their executions. This clarification immediately made more sense and put Professor Ghetti back into her usual role of Deamon.

I write this now and request that you please forward a copy of this writing to the Sister from your interview, because after that conversation with Professor Ghetti, I felt very guilty for not having tried years earlier to have her formally disbarred in the State of Texas and Louisiana. I had always been rather conflicted by this since I knew how she depended on her position as a lawyer for a means of financial support, and maybe more importantly, for one of psychological and social support (her father was a lawyer in Baton Rouge before he passed away.) But I was also personally knowledgable that Professor Ghetti had committed a number of very serious unethical and criminal acts while an attorney here in Texas. And I was also aware that she had taken steps to hide these acts and had submitted a number of false or perjured statements, documents, and affidavits to the Louisiana State Bar to obtain a license to practice law in that State in late 1980's.

I was aware of these facts because of Professor Ghetti's own admissions to me in the summer of 1990 when she tried to convince me to marry her a second time and move to Baton Rouge where she was to start a new job teaching law at the LSU Law School. I was very troubled by that prospect and took steps to preclude her from teaching at the LSU Law School, but for some reason she was able to obtain a teaching position at the Black, State University Law School, Southern University, and very obviously without a thorough investigation of her employment and legal backgrounds. I have assumed that she obtained the position as a political type appointment rather than on merit and even more likely as a form of graft.

During and before my death penalty trial in Dallas, Texas in 2002, I made all of these facts regarding Professor Ghetti known to my court appointed trial attorneys and indirectly to the Dallas District Attorneys Office prosecuting me at trial. When Professor Ghetti took the witness stand during my trial she was not only allowed to testify to matters which she had no knowledge of, but was allowed to state a number of gross lies or perjuries with the full knowledge of both the prosecuting attorneys for the State and my appointed trial attorneys. Now, even though I had been involuntarily drugged by order of the trial judge and my appointed trial attorneys for the previous six months and during the trial, I was still somewhat aware of what was taking place in the court room, though I would have to say it was more of an out-of-body type of awareness rather than a functional awareness. And after my trial attorney, Mr. Paul Johnson, sat down at the defense table after failing to cross-examine or impeach any of Professor Ghetti's perjured testimony, character, legal background, or even motives, I asked him why and he stated that he, "wasn't going to say or ask anything bad about her and get run out of town."

I think I remember reminding Mr. Johnson that I was the individual that the Dallas, and more specifically, the Highland Park Ku Klux Klan wanted to lynch, not him. That it was I who had been mistakenly invited to join the Dallas Country Club (without their knowledge that I was part Jewish on top of being Irish/Italian and I am sure that the Wilson and Sands families are still taking flake for that faux pas); a distinction which would not be extended to Mr. Johnson regardless his blonde hair, Anglo-Saxon ancestry, or Good Ol'Boy demeanor (his father was a police man, I think he said, and some would consider that a rather common or peasant background and having been a former Dallas Assistant District Attorney would also be considered a less than distinguished accomplishment in and among the gentry of my old neighborhood and why he might have been affraid of the Klan. A D.A. was more of a police-man with a degree.) And if you have ever had the misfortune, fate, what have you, to have one of these police-man/attorneys represent you, you will understand my meaning. He is not a professional. He is not a lawyer.

Mr. Johnson used to make is fact known to me very succintly when I would ask him a question or say I would like something filed, or have a hearing on a matter, or have him fired (that particular request got me six months free psychiatric medication from a County and jail known for killing its inmates by refusing them their psychiatric medication, although in their defense they did refuse me medical attention for over six months until a nice guard though I was dead in my cell. I think they were disappointed when they found out I was still alive and he would get upset with me and state that, "he was not there [appointed] to defend me, but to make sure all of the i's were dotted and the t's crossed on my Death Sentance." On a few occasions he stated that the Trial Judge was appointed for the same reason and one comment I particularly liked was when I was in the court room he would say "see that over there ? three prosecuting attorneys, and the judge ? a former prosecuting attorney, and me?(Mr. Johnson) a former prosecuting attorney, that should tell you how things are going to turn out for you, and I would say, 'How' ? and he would answer, "In your death!"

Like I stated above he was not an attorney, but a fancy police-man. And I was never sure of whether he was totally indifferent to my situation as his client and in need of his professional legal assistance in my defense and trial or that he assumed that the large amounts of psychiatric drugs I was being force feed twice per day, was rendering me incapable of remembering his comments. Though I will add that the day after my trial ended they refused to give me any medications and it took me almost a full year to become mentally fully functional, again, (though others may disagree) and that had they given me just a few milagrams more of anyone of the drugs, I might not have been able to walk into the court room or stay conscious on my own two feet, which I felt was an important and possibly only role I had during the whole charade of my trial.

I apologize for being so long winded without getting to the heart of the matter (a possible side-effect of solitary confinement) which is: I have tried to bring these issues regarding Professor Ghetti's suborned perjuries as well as the ineffective assistance of trial attorneys, appeal attorneys, being drugged, etc...no response.

I have even written the State Bar of Texas with some of these issues with no assistance whatsoever, but with one rather curious written response: that they had no record of Professor Ghetti or any of her other assumed names or aliases which I had provided being a licensed lawyer in Dallas, Texas. I wrote them again in July 2004 requesting the State Bar of Texas to again confirm to me in writing that Professor Ghetti had never been a licensed attorney in Texas and to-date I have never received a reply from the State Bar. I wrote them requesting the address of the Louisiana State Bar and still, no reply. I have subsequently made this disclosure by the Texas State Bar to both my Direct and Habeas Appeal attorneys - No Response, directly to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals with a request for an investigation - No Response, and directly to the LSU and Southern University Law Schools - No Response.

The fact that I can't get a response from lawyers, judges, and law schools is rather incredible. But what may be more incredible is that a highly unethical and criminal attorney (is that an oxymoron?) may be illegally practicing law in Louisiana, illegally teaching law school students, and worst of all illegally send men to their deaths in Louisiana (Go figure!) I'm making Texas look good.

If the Sister and friend of Dobby would like more information on my ~~my~~ research regarding Professor Ghetti, please let me know. I do not know if this Ghetti woman was involved in Dobby's execution, but this highly illegal and unconstitutional, Death Sentencing business must be stopped. And I think I may have a key or a case that may shine a very bright light into this whole dirty business.

If the Sister can offer me some source or avenue where I may find legal assistance to properly bring these matters before the courts before the appointed attorneys roll over on me and bar the issues, I would be most grateful.

And of course National Public Radio (NPR) thank you so much for your time and work on bringing so much information on so many subjects to your listeners. And thank you in advance for sending this letter to the good Sister.

Sincerely,
