

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## Why Bonaparte Will Not Sue

Soon-to-be former CoB assistant professor Yosef Bonaparte was reportedly fired without cause by USM at the end of the 2008-09 academic year. He is now, during the 2009-10 academic season, presumably serving out a terminal contract. To read the way George Carter, the former EFIB chairman, spoke about the saga with reporters from *Inside Higher Ed*, Bonaparte has what some may think of as an "open and shut case." Will he sue USM?

There are many reasons to suspect the answer to the above question is a resounding "no." To begin with, Bonaparte would need the support of Carter. Carter was, however, on the dealers' end of a much worse "firing" at the end of 2005-06 than the Bonaparte case could ever be. That situation also involved a former finance assistant professor who had just won the CoB's AT&T Outstanding Professor Award. That individual has A-level publications to his credit. That former CoBer was one of the better service producers in recent CoB history. Bonaparte, on the other hand, has no such record, and there are some reports to suggest that he may have some other "issues" to overcome before commencing a legal run against the Martha Saunders administration.

Yes, for Bonaparte to raise an issue with USM, Carter would have to be called. Then there's Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand, the two CoB administrators who instigated the prior episode, and who sheltered much of Carter's aberrant behavior. And let's not forget Alvin Williams and Joseph Peyrefitte, the former leaders of the Williams (interim) administration of 2007-08 who upheld the Doty-Niroomand administration's actions and decisions. Other CoBers, past and present, were also involved. The string here is simply amazing. It also includes former USM president and provost Shelby Thames and Jay Grimes, respectively.

The recent federal court suit by the former USM athletics director must have the Saunders administration on edge. Other pending lawsuits, particularly the racial discrimination one up in Whitewater, Wisconsin, surely has Saunders and husband Joe Bailey up at night. The last thing the duo in the mansion needs is another. Luckily for them it will not likely be coming via Bonaparte.

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*31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.*