

Another (Dangerous?) USM Professor Steps Forward

HATTIESBURG - According to Jesse Bass' 26-July-2012 [report for](#) *The Hattiesburg American*, former USM professor Scott Klingler has filed suit against USM, and in particular former USM president Martha Saunders and former USM provost Robert Lyman, for what he alleges "are violations of his [employment] contract and his civil rights." According to Bass' report, Klingler's employment with USM officially ended on 31-May-2012, and that in addition to being fired, he has also been prevented from completing his tenure-track run, banned from campus, prohibited from having any contact with his former students, denied due process, and subjected to humiliation. All of this describes the atmosphere of mistreatment he suffered of throughout 2011 and 2012 at the hands of Saunders and Lyman.

Although Bass' report does not state as much, it appears to USMNEWS.net sources that Klingler is another of the alleged-to-be [dangerous faculty](#) USM faculty, some of whom were [suspended without due process](#) by the Saunders [administration](#) beginning [at least as far back](#) as the 2010-11 academic year. One of those [alleged by USM](#) to [potentially constitute](#) a danger [was revealed](#) to be political science professor [Kate Greene](#). Klingler's complaint alleges, according to Bass, that "[t]here is no authority for banning a public employee from a public institution" and that USM never formally informed him of the reasons for his firing. Klingler is being represented by attorney Kim Chaze, who has become very proficient in executing cases against USM and its administrators. Chaze is currently representing one of two high-ranking officials in USM's athletics department in a case alleging mistreatment of them at the hands of USM athletics director Jeff Hammond. In an interview with Bass, Chaze said "[m]y client deserves relief and we hope to obtain through the judicial system."

USMNEWS.net will, of course, attempt to keep updated on this situation. Readers who are interested in Chaze's successes in cases against USM should enter "Kim Chaze" (or some variant) into USMNEWS.net's Google search tool. A similar process can be followed for more news reports and editorials on the campus climate at USM vis-à-vis dangerous faculty. An intriguing place to begin that particular exercise is [here](#).