

How does a Q&A dialogue unfold when an attorney catches a witness lying? Re: Alvin J. Williams, part 5

Here's one of many examples from our usmnews.net's archives of how a Q&A unfolds when an attorney catches a witness lying.

The following is the actual sworn testimony of Alvin J. Williams, then-Interim Dean, College of Business, University of Southern Mississippi, taken on June 4, 2008, in the case, *DePree v. University of Southern Mississippi*. (Q. is DePree's attorney's question directed to Williams; A. is Williams' response).

First consider that in a letter Williams wrote at the end of August 2007 requesting then-President Martha Saunders to fire DePree, Williams cited the following reason to fire DePree:

“DePree has used what was perceived as a recording device, without permission, to record conversations between faculty members as well as between faculty and students. Knowledge of these behaviors made faculty less (sic) reluctant to engage freely in exchange that is associated with a collegial academic environment. When faculty members fear talking about research projects, university activities, and instructional topics because of their likelihood of being recorded for unknown purposes it poses a real danger to the atmosphere so characteristic of a university work environment.”

Now for the deposition and sworn testimony of Alvin Williams:

Q. How did Dr. Depree's behavior affect research?

A. In any academic environment, it's important for colleagues and scholars to feel as though they can exchange ideas freely among themselves in both formal and informal settings. The [DePree's] perceived recording device kept individuals from having the informal exchanges that are so important in disseminating and sharing research ideas.

Q. So everybody acted on a perception, is what you're telling me?

A. I'm saying that it had that effect.

Q. I understand but I'm trying to clearly understand this. Nobody knew that Dr. Depree had a recording device, everybody perceived that Dr. Depree had a recording device?

A. I don't remember anyone telling me that they actually saw it and had him admit that it was a recording device.

Williams also testified that he never saw DePree with a recording device or recording a conversation. (Also note that it is not illegal to record conversations nor is it against USM policy or rules.)

Williams just testified that neither he nor anyone else ever saw DePree record anyone's conversation. And yet he wrote then-President Saunders recommending to fire DePree because some faculty "perceived DePree recorded their conversations with a perceived recording device" and were "reluctant to engage freely in exchange that is associated with a collegial academic environment." In fact, Williams testified that neither he nor anyone else ever saw DePree record anyone's conversation.

Here's the truth: Mobbing faculty did not see DePree record anyone's conversation because DePree never did record anyone's conversation.

Williams got caught lying, again.

Williams' purpose was to lie so as to have testimony that would support firing DePree.

Williams got caught lying as did many of the other USM mobbers. He and they failed, but their disreputable behavior cost USM, that is students and taxpayers, better than \$2,500,000. If students should wonder why tuition continues to rise or taxpayers wonder why their taxes continue to rise without seeing improvement in USM or state services, all they need to do is review the archives at usmnews.net.

More important than the cost to students and taxpayers is the failure of accountability of Williams' misconduct. USM's attorneys, including Lee P. Gore, witnessed the lies. What should the consequence of such miscreant behavior be?

If they, Williams and the other mobbers, are not held to account, rest assured, you and others may be subject to the same misconduct. Why shouldn't they treat others the same way? After all, they didn't pay a price for their misconduct.

Keep in mind that Alvin Williams is now employed at the University of South Alabama. If I were a student, faculty, or administrator at USA, I should be aware of Williams' tendency to lie and bare false witness.