

**How does a Q&A dialogue unfold  
when an attorney catches a witness lying?  
Re: Mary Morgan Anderson, Part 3**

Let me modify the title and substance a bit:

**How does a Q&A dialogue unfold when an  
attorney catches a witness exhibiting “a loose screw”?  
Re: Mary Morgan Anderson, Part 3**

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, or being or acting just plain dumb, or exhibiting “a loose screw.” The following testimony of Mary Morgan Anderson catches her doing the latter. (Also see Mary Morgan Anderson in action in Parts 1 and 2.)

The following is the actual sworn testimony of Mary Morgan Anderson, then-untenured assistant professor, School of Accountancy, College of Business, University of Southern Mississippi, taken on June 10, 2008, in the case, *DePree v. University of Southern Mississippi*. (Q. is DePree's attorney's question directed to Anderson; A. is Anderson's response).

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

“Too many people have told me, as an attempt to communicate the impact of his website, that it only takes five minutes to realize that USMNEWS.Net is the ‘ranting of a lunatic’.”

Ignore for the moment that Anderson is offering other peoples' views and not her first hand knowledge (and she didn't name them, either) as reason to fire DePree, consider the deposition and sworn testimony of Mary Morgan Anderson:

Q. Did you not like some of the articles that you saw on Dr. DePree's website [usmnews.net]?

A. I think I had maybe kind of a different take on it than a lot of the other people. I -- if you look at it as almost comical because you can see a subtext in everything. And, you know, I felt like people that did not -- I really felt like that people that did not know Dr. DePree would not maybe catch the subtext, but a lot of people, including Dr. Englebrecht, a lot of students, you know, the reaction to people that would go to it for the first time would say, you know, this guy has got a screw loose.

Q. What's the subtext mean? You got me there.

- A. Well, like right now, and I've looked at it recently, he's -- a reporter is ranking journal articles, people who write journals. And he's got himself as number one in the School of Accounting and he's got *CPA Journal* next to it. Okay. Which is an "A" *Journal*. But the subtext is, the article is on how to fire an employee, which is not, you know, accounting related. So the subtext is he's not telling the whole truth. It's not even -- won't even account for accreditation. You know, he's portraying it as a -- you know, something that the Accounting School should be proud of and it's not -- the subtext is it's not even on point.

Let's ignore for the moment that CPA firms fire employees all the time and may need guidance; and that the "A" journal, *The CPA Journal*, and its highly respected editors agreed that professional accountants might find such guidance useful and published DePree's article. [Grant the irony here, too; USM spent \$2,500,000 trying and failing to fire DePree. The administrators, their lawyers, and the accounting faculty might have benefited by reading the article.]

Given the many years Anderson spent trying to become educated, her reason for having a colleague fired is that "this guy has got a screw loose." It's as amazing that anyone would give credence to Anderson's pop-psychology diagnosis of "this guy's got a screw loose." She didn't give any reasons. Just a simple, "this guy's got a screw loose."

By the way, DePree was the first accounting faculty at the School of Accountancy to publish in a high quality academic publication. And, he published more research in high quality academic journals than all the faculty combined. Also, DePree published in the best professional journals and won awards for those publications, including *The Journal of Accountancy*, *Management Accounting*, and *Strategic Finance*—by far more quality professional publications than anyone else on the accounting faculty. By the way, the reader doesn't have to obtain verification of these facts from any unknown, anonymous source. It's public record.

Don't forget Mary Morgan Anderson still works at the University and teaches our students. If you do something she doesn't like, will she make up stories, or ignore or misrepresent facts, to have you fired? Or worse, will she similarly abuse someone, like a student, who can't fight back?