

*Lee Gore, The University of West Florida and The Florida Bar Association  
Part 1*

Zabetti Pappas has provided usmnews.net with documents relating to Lee Gore's employment obtained through a Florida Open Records request. The records paint a troubling picture which will not be surprising to many of Gore's former colleagues. Sources tell usmnews.net that fast and loose interpretation and application of rules were part of his history at Southern Miss.

Today, usmnews.net [publishes the agreement](#) under which Gore became General Counsel for UWF.

Under the terms of the agreement, Gore was to become a member of the Florida Bar within a year. In fact, his continuing employment was conditioned on that accomplishment.

You are expected to become a member of the Florida Bar within one year of your employment, and failure to do so can result in termination of your employment. I assure you my full support in your role as General Counsel at the University of West Florida. If you accept the terms and conditions of this appointment, please sign where indicated at the end of this letter.

Gore signed the letter acknowledging his acceptance of the terms and conditions of employment.

I accept the terms set forth above.

 Oct 12, 2011  
Lee P. Gore Date

UWF admits that Gore did not comply with his obligation to become a member of the Florida Bar within a year. In fact, according to published reports, UWF President Judy Bense extended Gore's time in which to become licensed in Florida for an additional year or until October 31, 2013. According to published reports the University contends Gore passed the bar examination in February 2013. However, on June 25, 2013, the [Florida Bar advised Gore](#):

As I understand, you serve as General Counsel at the University of West Florida. Our records indicate that you are not a member of The Florida Bar and you are not certified as an Authorized House Counsel in the State of Florida.

However, Gore still has not been admitted to the Florida bar. Incredibly, others who [took and passed](#) the bar examination in February 2013, were admitted to practice soon thereafter.

Faced with two bar complaints, and consistent with his reported history of playing fast and loose with the rules, Gore and UWF simply [changed his title](#) while he remained in charge of the Office of the General Counsel. However, according to [Jesse Farthing](#), reporter for Rick's Blog, Gore's time finally ran out. "Lee Gore, who was heading up the University of West Florida Office

of the General Counsel, has been terminated from that position, as of Oct. 31, for failing to become a member of the Florida Bar before his contractual deadline for doing so was up.” Farthing reports that effective 1-Nov- 2013, Gore is an assistant to Provost Martha Saunders who was formerly president of USM and Gore’s former boss.

Part 2 of this report will follow.