

Lee Gore, The University of West Florida and The Florida Bar Association

Part 3

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.

Part 1 [published the agreement](#) under which Gore became General Counsel for UWF. Part 2 addressed [President Bense's letter to Gore](#) dated 7-July-2013 in which she specifically instructed Gore to provide the documents necessary to be admitted to the Florida Bar, by 31-July-2013. The same letter ordered Gore to become a lawyer in Florida by 31-Oct-2013. We do not know if Gore submitted the necessary documents, but we do know that Gore did not manage to do whatever was necessary to obtain a license to practice law in Florida.

As previously reported, the Florida Bar [began an investigation of Gore](#) in the wake of allegations he had been practicing law in the state without benefit of a license. According to [Jesse Farthing](#), reporter for Rick's Blog, there is an ongoing investigation of Gore's actions by the Florida Bar Association.

However, usmnews.net can report that by letter dated [4-Oct-2013](#), the Florida Bar Association determined that Gore's activities as General Counsel "... do constitute the unlicensed practice of law ...". Based on this decision, it was impossible for Bense and UWF to pretend that Gore could serve as General Counsel. Bense could no longer delay removing Gore from the office of General Counsel.

The Committee has determined that your duties as General Counsel do constitute the unlicensed practice of law as you are not currently licensed or authorized to practice law in Florida. The Committee acknowledges that you are licensed to practice law in Mississippi and you are currently an applicant to The Florida Bar. However, there is no exception which allows for you to have "provisional employment" as an attorney for a public university for any period of time. You may not engage in the practice of law for the University until the admission process is complete and you are admitted.

Sources question what services – other than the practice of law – Gore is providing Provost Martha Saunders.

More to follow.