

A Matter of Trust

A colleague from South Alabama reminded usmnews.net of issues associated with Alvin J. Williams' [lack of] credibility. As Interim Chair and Distinguished Professor of Marketing, he makes decisions about faculty, including recommendations to terminate tenured faculty based on what he admitted under oath to be fabricated cause. We are going to run a series of articles for your review. If you question whether these reports are taken out of context, please send a request for a complete copy of William's depositions. Here is the question, as a member of his faculty, do you have any reason to worry about his credibility or his decision making?

How does a Q&A dialogue unfold when an attorney catches a witness lying?

Re: Alvin J. Williams

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):

DePree's attorney asked Williams to read a statement from Williams' letter requesting then-President Martha Saunders to fire DePree. In the letter Williams asserts that because of DePree "students do not feel safe to go about their usual business."

- Q. Did any students ever tell you that they did not feel safe to go about their usual business in Joseph Greene hall [where the College of Business is housed]?
- A. I have not had any input or contact with students regarding Dr. Depree.
- Q. Who told you that, then?
- Q. What you said is that Dr. Depree has created an environment in which students do not feel safe to go about their usual business in Joseph Green Hall...I'm asking you, what did you base that statement on?

- A. ...no student came to me and said directly I don't feel safe because of Dr. Depree.
- Q. And nobody has told you that a student has told them that they don't feel safe because of Dr. Depree?
- A. I have not heard that that I can say yes to.
- Q. So, really, you have nothing to base the inclusion of students in the sentence upon, do you?
- A. I have no specifics.

Let's review Williams statement in a letter requesting then-President Martha Saunders fire DePree. In the letter Williams asserts that because of DePree, "students do not feel safe to go about their usual business." Williams lied.

Williams' purpose was to lie about the facts so as to have testimony that would support firing DePree. He chose a most despicable false accusation. Williams got caught as did many of the other USM mobbers. He and they failed, but their disreputable behavior cost USM -- that is students and taxpayers -- more than \$2,500,000. If students should wonder why tuition continues to rise or taxpayers wonder why their taxes continue to increase without seeing improvement in USM or state services, all you 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, understood lies were motivating administrators and their ally faculty to fire DePree. What should the consequence of such miscreant behavior be?

If they 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.