Special Report Series

Cloudy with a Chance of Mobbing

Former CoB Dean in Hot Water Once Again PART 8

In light of former CoB dean Harold Doty's litigation history, USMNEWS.net reporters periodically check the courts near where Doty lives and works. Recent documents obtained from the Smith County, Texas Court Clerk, indicate that Doty is once again likely headed back to court, this time in his capacity as dean of business at the University of Texas – Tyler. These documents indicate that former UT-T business student advisor, Karen St. John, is suing UT-T based on actions largely taken by Doty vis-à-vis St. John's employment. This is Part 8 in this series.

a.m. deadline given to her. This unfair action was taken despite the fact that Defendant's own Handbook allows the employee "two working days" to respond to a

disciplinary action and does not even contemplate the University's right to restrict or deny an employee access to her computer.

The insert above indicates that, in giving St. John only 24 hours to respond to the "intent to terminate" letter delivered to her on 21-Dec-2010 by UT-Tyler (see part 7 in this series), the east Texas-based institution had violated the employee handbook, which St. John and counsel state allows UT-Tyler staffers "two working days" to respond to a UT-Tyler disciplinary action such as the one taken in St. John's case. The handbook would have allowed St. John to have used both 22-Dec and 23-Dec of 2010 to complete a response. Instead, UT-Tyler administrators imposed a 10am 22-Dec-2010 deadline, one that sources say appears to have been entirely arbitrary and capricious.

On December 22, 2010, St. John was called into a meeting with Joseph Vorsas, Dean Doty, Kerri Keech and a witness requested by St. John, Deborah Brasher. During this final termination hearing, Vorsas began the proceeding by displaying St. John's EEOC charge and ending it by giving St. John her termination documents and forcing her to sign them.

On the day of the deadline, 22-Dec-2010, St. John was called to a meeting with Doty and UT-Tyler human resources director, Joe Vorsas (pictured below); St. John brought a witness – Deborah Brasher – to that meeting.



Joe Vorsas

Vorsas opened the meeting by "displaying St. John's EEOC charge," and he later closed it by "forcing [St. John] to sign [termination documents]." This latter action, witnessed by Brasher, effectively ended St. John's affiliation with UT-Tyler (see earlier installments in this series for details about how UT-Tyler officials forced St. John to discontinue her studies at the university).

Stay tuned to USMNEWS.net for part nine.