

Special Report Series

Hurricane Michala

Former CoB Dean in Hot Water Once Again

PART 14

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 for harm caused by [actions largely taken](#) by Doty vis-à-vis St. John's employment. In late fall of 2011, St. John's husband, Jeremy St. John, another former member of UT-T's business school, joined her cause as co-plaintiff in the case against UT-T. This is Part 14 in a series of news stories about this developing situation.

During the Summer 2011 semester, Dean Doty's daughter was enrolled in Dr. St. John's course, Quantitative Analysis. On July 24, 2011 with the semester almost over, the Dean's daughter, Michela Doty, notified him that she wanted to take (for the first time) the chapter 2 quiz and assignment to improve her grade because she had not taken them at the beginning of the semester when they were due (and when everyone else in the class took them), as required by the syllabus. Upon information and belief, this is not the first request for special treatment from Ms. Doty. UT Tyler's Instructors are used to such requests from Ms. Doty and always comply out of fear, because it is common knowledge that staff and instructors have been reprimanded and even fired in the past for not doing so. However, Ms. Doty's request was so belated and brazen, Dr. St. John told her "no", given that it was very unfair to the other students, not to mention unethical, for him to grant her special ability to raise her grade when all the other students in his class are required to comply with the syllabus and do the work timely. Soon after that denial, Bushardt contacted Dr. St. John about mostly unspecified "concerns" about his teaching and class from "both students and Administration". One

One very interesting aspect of Jeremy St. John's legal complaint against UT-T administrators [involves Michala Doty](#), Harold Doty's daughter. As St. John notes above, Michala Doty was enrolled in St. John's summer 2011 quantitative analysis course. On 24-July-2011, near the end of the semester, Michala approached St. John and told him [that she wanted](#) to take the chapter 2 quiz/assignment that she had up to that point neglected to take. Seeking to improve her course grade, Michala was [making a request](#) that St. John break the rules set out in the course syllabus, given that it stated that the quiz/assignment was due much earlier in the semester. Describing her request as

“belated and brazen,” St. John tells the Smith County Court that he denied Michala’s request for special treatment, given that compliance with her belated request would provide an unfair advantage to her *and* constitute unethical behavior on his part. St. John also notes that his denial of special treatment was to a UT-T business school student – Michala Doty – who had come to expect such treatment from faculty at what some USMNEWS.net sources say she likely refers to as “her dad’s school.” As St. John’s legal complaint states,

“UT Tyler’s Instructors are used to such requests from Ms. Doty and almost always comply out of fear, because it is common knowledge that staff and instructors have been reprimanded and even fired in the past for not doing so.”

St. John’s statement about “common knowledge” perhaps became even more common around the UT-T business school, given what happened to him upon denying Michala’s special treatment request. As his filing above points out, he was contacted by UT-T management department chairman Stephen Bushardt about “. . . mostly unspecified ‘concerns’ about [St. John’s] teaching and class from ‘both students and Administration.’” Sources tell USMNEWS.net that such *phantom concerns* often emanate from “the Doty administration,” whether that business school “administration” resides at UT-T or USM.

specific complaint he identified is that Dr. St. John "obviously does not prepare adequately for class and the material he is teaching and the assignments he is giving have nothing to do with the book, course or topic". This allegation was completely false, the lectures pertained directly to the textbook and most homework problems assigned were assigned straight from the textbook. Furthermore the class structure and material was hardly changed since the last time he taught this class, a class to which Defendant expressed no concerns. The difference is only that Defendant stepped up its attempts to undermine Dr. St. John's teaching efforts in retaliation for denying the Dean's daughter special treatment in his class and in retaliation for his wife's charges. As a defense against the false claim, Defendant searched for an e-mail that had been forwarded to him by Bushardt himself in which Bushardt complimented Dr. St. John on his teaching and passed on a student compliment where the student specifically states that what sets Dr. St. John apart from the other instructors is his teaching method which is "teaching by the book". This email had been selectively removed from Dr. St. John's University email account by someone with administrative privileges and someone other than Dr. St. John. The complaints were completely false, and Dr. St. John asked for verification and/or documentation of the complaints for his records. They were not provided to him.

St. John’s court complaint continues above by providing the claim made by UT-T business school administrators that St. John’s instruction and assignments have little

relation to the course text, and that he puts in minimal effort to prepare for class. These claims are partially refuted by the fact that St. John's assignments are prepared *directly from* the course text. As sources expected, none of the complaints against St. John - many of which were refuted by a complimentary e-mail sent to Bushardt by one of St. John's students - were made available to him. Even worse, the complimentary e-mail was later ". . . selectively removed from [Jeremy] St. John's University email account by someone with administrative privileges and someone other than [Jeremy] St. John." Of course, this sounds much like acts reportedly taken by former USM president Shelby Thames, an individual some claim is Doty's *administrative mentor*, during Thames' infamous 2002-07 stint atop USM.