

# *The Trellis Green Lawsuit: A Decade Later*

It has been about 12 years since then-assistant professor of economics Trellis G. Green filed suit against the University of Southern Mississippi and the Mississippi IHL, and a decade since that suit was settled. Given the current state of affairs in USM's College of Business, it seems fitting that USMPRIDE.COM presents a series on the Green lawsuit. This is part 12 in that series.

## **A Call for Vitae**

Part 6 in this series concluded with an interesting request filed by Green's attorney, Kim Chaze, in January of 1997. That request, inserted at the end of this issue, called for the defendants' production of a number of CBA faculty vitae. Green's case was apparently built on a "lowest common denominator theory" of tenure and promotion, wherein one's record simply has to be greater than only the weakest record to have received the award (tenure, promotion) that one is seeking. Green wanted to show that his own record exceeded that of some of the people listed in his request for vitae.

## **Moving Past the Denominators**

Previous reports have examined some of the "denominators" in Green's case. There are other denominators in the list of individuals at the end of this report. Sources tell USMPRIDE.COM that then EIB Chair George Carter canvassed his department in order to gauge support for his proposal to promote then-associate professor of economics Colleen Cameron to full professor. In doing so, we are informed that Carter and others in the CBA hoped to boost Cameron's PERS package. Sources indicate that after Carter canvassed the faculty and received the requisite support, other EIB associate professors were all but dancing in the third floor hallway at the notion that their own forthcoming dossiers had gained a seal of approval, given comparisons between Cameron's dossier and their own.

These stories could continue. However, this issue (part 12) moves beyond the "lowest common denominator" aspect of Green's case against Carter, Tyrone Black, David Huffman, Aubrey Lucas, USM and the Mississippi IHL by examining some of the documentation regarding witnesses who were to be involved in Green's lawsuit.

## **The Plaintiff Calls . . .**

The Subpoena inserted below instructs then-associate professor of management David Duhon to appear in court, with his vita, on 17 March 1997 at 9:00am.

### **SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM (Process Server)**

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**THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
FORREST COUNTY**

**Forrest Co. Circuit  
Case No.: 8-95-4583**

WE COMMAND YOU TO SUMMON \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. David Duhon \_\_\_\_\_,

to be and personally appear

at the **Forrest County Circuit Courthouse**, located at **630 Main Street, Hattiesburg,**

**Mississippi**, on **Thursday, March 17, 1997**, at **9:00 a.m.**, to testify at the Trial of this

matter at the instance of the Plaintiff, and to bring with him/her:

1. Your Vitae;
2. Your Dossier (presented to Dr. Lucas regarding his/her promotion to associate professor and/or tenure desires); and
3. Any documents reflecting or indicating accomplishments you (the person subpoenaed) perceived as relevant in regard to your being promoted to associate professor and/or tenured.

to be used in evidence in a certain case in said Court pending, wherein

TRELLIS GREEN is the Plaintiff, and the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI,

ET AL., are the Defendants.

HEREIN FAIL NOT AND HAVE THERE THEN THIS WRIT.

WITNESS my hand and Seal of said Court this \_\_\_\_ day of March, A.D. 1997.

Hon. Lou Ellen Adams  
FORREST CO. CIRCUIT CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_, D.C.

KIM T. CHAZE  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
MSB # 5974  
912 West Pine Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601/582-3947

Although there were several other such subpoena documents, Duhon's was chosen for presentation in this report because sources tell USMPRIDE.COM that Green was planning to use Duhon's promotion to associate professor as the cornerstone of his (Green's) case. The previous issue in this series highlighted some of the information about Duhon's promotions at USM.

Green and Chaze had also selected other CBA faculty to participate in their case against the defendants. One of these was finance professor Charles Cartee. The Civil Subpoena inserted below indicates that Green sought testimony from Cartee.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**FILED**  
MAR 6 1997

DR. TRELIS GREEN,                                     Plaintiff;  
  )  
v.   )  
  )  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN                     Defendants.)  
MISSISSIPPI,

*Lou Ellen Adams*  
CIRCUIT CLERK

Case No.: 6-94-4284

**CIVIL SUBPOENA**

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON \_\_\_\_\_  
DR. CHARLES P. CARTEE to be and personally appear at  
the trial of this matter at the **FORREST COUNTY COURTHOUSE**, located at **630 Main Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi**, on the **17th day of March, A.D., 1997**, at **9:00 a.m.**, and there remain from day to day until discharged by law, then and there to testify at the instance of the Plaintiff.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court, and issued this the 5th day of March, A.D. 1997.

Hon. Lou Ellen Adams  
FORREST CO. CIRCUIT CLERK  
P. O. Drawer 992  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0992

KIM T. CHAZE  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
912 West Pine Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601/582-3947

By: *A. Cartee*, D.C.

It is not known what Cartee would attest to, however USMPRIDE.COM sources indicate that Cartee was a virtual treasure chest of information about several potentially corrupt business practices involving the CBA (e.g., real estate endowments, etc.).

USMPRIDE.COM investigators have also learned from sources that current management professor Sharon Topping was the object of harassment from various CBA administrators at or near the time that Green's lawsuit approached trial. Understanding this, Green apparently sought to get Topping's accounts into evidence. The Civil Subpoena inserted below shows that Green wanted to incorporate some of Topping's experiences into his own case against Black and the other USM administrators.

*Coy*

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FORREST COUNTY, HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39401

Plaintiff(s)

Defendant(s)

Case No. 6-94-4284

CIVIL SUBPOENA

To the Sheriff of Said County or Process Server:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON \_\_\_\_\_

DR. SHARON TOPPING

to be and personally appear

before the said Court of the County of Forrest, in said State, at the Court House in the City  
of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 1997

at 9:00 o'clock A.M. and there remain from day to day until discharged by law, then and there  
to testify on behalf of the PLAINTIFF

GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court, and issued this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of  
MARCH, 1997

Hon. Lou Ellen Adams  
Forrest Co. Circuit Clerk  
P.O. Drawer 992  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0992  
Circuit Clerk

By: *AS Canty* D.C.

Attorney for PLAINTIFF

KIM T. CHAZE

912 W. Pine St., Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Address

(601) 582-3947

The Supplementation File entered by Chaze on 17 March 1997 that is inserted below shows that another CBA faculty member, Gus Gordon, was to be called as a witness by Green in order to present evidence of "the vindictive business habits of Dr. Black."

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DR. TRELIS GREEN,

PLAINTIFF,

V.

CASE NO. 6-94-4284

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN  
MISSISSIPPI, ET AL.,

**FILED**  
MAR 17 1997

DEFENDANT.

*Lucille Williams*  
CIRCUIT CLERK

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**SUPPLEMENTATION**

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COMES NOW TRELIS GREEN, by and through his attorney, supplements his Interrogatory responses in the following respects:

The additional witness of Mr. Gus Gordon whose address and phone number is 1619 Cayman Cove, Biloxi, MS 39531, (601) 865-4505. He may be called to testify about the business practices of Dr. Black. He may also testify with regards to his own personal background and knowledge of the qualifications of Dr. Trellis Green. He further may testify with regard to the vindictive business habits of Dr. Black.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 1997

  
KIM T. CHAZE  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
MSB #5974  
912 West Pine Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601/582-3947

The Civil Subpoena, regarding Gordon's participation in the Green trial, which was filed with the Forrest County Circuit Court on 17 March 1997, is also included below.

Copies

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DR. TRELIS GREEN,

Plaintiff;)

v.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI,

Defendants.)

Case No.: 6-94-4284

**CIVIL SUBPOENA**

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Gus Gordon \_\_\_\_\_ to be and personally appear at the trial of  
this matter at the **FORREST COUNTY COURTHOUSE**, located at **630 Main Street,  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**, on the **17th** day of **March, A.D., 1997**, at **9:00 a.m.**, and there  
remain from day to day until discharged by law, then and there to testify at the instance of  
the Plaintiff.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court, and issued this the 17 day of  
March, A.D. 1997.

Hon. Lou Ellen Adams  
FORREST CO. CIRCUIT CLERK  
P. O. Drawer 992  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0992

By: AD, D.C.

KIM T. CHAZE  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
912 West Pine Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601/582-3947

Professor of MIS and current SAIS Director Stan Lewis was also called to participate in Green's case against USM officials and the Mississippi IHL. A copy of Lewis' Civil Subpoena, also filed on 17 March 1997, is inserted below.

*Cooper* ✓

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DR. TRELIS GREEN,	Plaintiff;)	) ) ) ) )	Case No.: 6-94-4284
v.	)		
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN	)		
MISSISSIPPI,	)		
Defendants.)	)		

**CIVIL SUBPOENA**

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Stan Lewis to be and personally appear at the trial of  
this matter at the **FORREST COUNTY COURTHOUSE**, located at **630 Main Street,  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**, on the **17th** day of **March, A.D., 1997**, at **9:00 a.m.**, and there  
remain from day to day until discharged by law, then and there to testify at the instance of  
the Plaintiff.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court, and issued this the 17 day of  
March, A.D. 1997.

Hon. Lou Ellen Adams  
FORREST CO. CIRCUIT CLERK  
P. O. Drawer 992  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0992

By: *AP* \_\_\_\_\_, D.C.

KIM T. CHAZE  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
912 West Pine Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601/582-3947

As the documentation in this issue indicates, Green and Chaze were getting their case against the USM officials lined up by the start of the trial. Given what the witnesses they were calling knew about the CBA from their previous administrative and other experiences, their testimony promised to be quite interesting.

The next installment will take a brief look at some of the deposition statements that preceded Green's trial.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DR. TRELIS GREEN,

PLAINTIFF;

V.

CASE NO.: 6-94-4284

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN  
MISSISSIPPI, ET AL.,

DEFENDANTS.

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**REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS  
PROPOUNDED TO DEFENDANTS**

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COMES NOW, the Plaintiff and propounds the following Request for Production of Documents to the Defendants pursuant to the Miss. Rules of Civil Procedure as follows, to-wit:

1. Please produce the Vitae, Personnel File, and Dossier of all persons who have been awarded Tenure and Promotion in the Department of Economics and International Business over the past eight (8) years.

2. Please produce all documents which were in fact reviewed by UNIVERSITY representatives when deciding which individuals would be awarded Tenure or Promotion in the Department of of Economics and International Business over the past eight (8) years.

3. Please produce the vitae, personnel file, and dossier of the following persons:

A. James S. (Scott) McGruder;

B. Chauncey M. (Mark) Depree;



- C. Ernest W. (Ernie) King;
- D. Farhang Niroomand;
- E. Charles W. Sawyer;
- F. Mark Klinedinst;
- G. George H. Carter III;
- H. Eddie Miley Lewis;
- I. Colleen O. Cameron;
- J. Frank C. Whitesell;
- K. Bille Morgan Allen;
- L. Forrest Durwood Ruegger;
- M. Gus Gordon;
- N. Lee P. Gore;
- O. James R. Henderson;
- P. Jerry G. King;
- Q. Davud Duhon;
- R. James L. Davis; and
- S. William Sirmon.

[For reference purposes, the foregoing persons, have been promoted or granted tenure in the College of Business Administration.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED on this the 16 day of January, A.D. 1997.



KIM T. CHAZE  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
MSB No. 5974  
912 West Pine Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601/582-3947