

The Trellis Green Lawsuit: A Decade Later

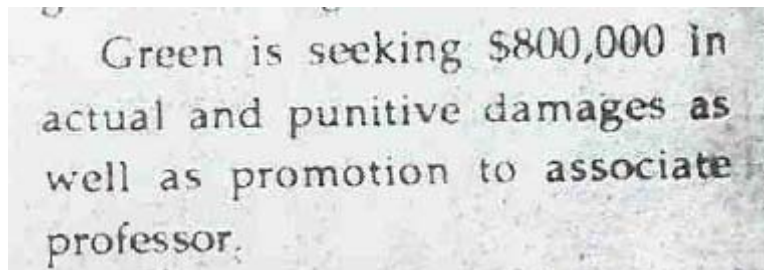
It has been about 12 years since then-assistant professor of economics Trellis G. Green filed suit against the University of Southern Mississippi and the Mississippi IHL, and a decade since that suit was settled. Given the current state of affairs in USM's College of Business, it seems fitting that USMPRIDE.COM presents a series on the Green lawsuit. This is part 3 in that series.

The Award

The previous installment in this series examined some of the administrative tendencies of EIB Chair George Carter, one of the six named defendants in the Green lawsuit. All six defendants were identified at the time in a front page headline of a local newspaper (*The Student Printz*), as shown below:

Professor files suit against USM/IHL
Lucas, Huffman, Black and Carter also named in promotion dispute

This issue examines the award sought by Green. According to the story by Renée Mullins, a reporter for *The Student Printz*:



Green is seeking \$800,000 in actual and punitive damages as well as promotion to associate professor.

As the newspaper report captured above indicates, Green sought two remedies from the State of Mississippi:

- The promotion to associate professor that he was denied by Carter, CBA Dean Tyrone Black, USM VPAA David Huffman, USM President Aubrey Lucas, and the IHL.
- \$800,000 in actual and punitive damages as a result of the events surrounding the denial of his (Green's) promotion to associate professor.

At the time Green filed his suit (mid-1994), the promotion to associate at USM came with a \$3,500 raise. Green was also set to earn \$49,860/year (9 months) as an assistant professor of economics at the beginning of the 1994-1995 academic year. Thus, Green's actual and punitive damages request of \$800,000 amounted to just over 16 times his annual salary.

The next issue in this series will begin our look at the evidence from the Green lawsuit.