

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 7 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.

The George Carter Denominator

As USMPRIDE.COM readers are aware, at the time Green filed the motion for vitae, EIB Chair George Carter had just completed the 12th year of his tenure track program. Thus, Carter had been given the benefit of two times the usual period in order to qualify for tenure. This has been reported on extensively at USMPRIDE.COM, as the headlines below point out:

Special Report

Did George Carter Get 12 Years for Tenure?

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Credentials

Special Report

George Carter's Leisurely Stroll down Tenure Lane

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

The first of these *Special Reports* on Carter's 12-year tenure timeline presented a piece of Carter's own bio from his SEDONA records. That academic history timeline is shown below:

1985	IHL								
1986	IHL								
1987	Commissioner of IHL (Interim)								
1988	IHL								
1989		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1990		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1991		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1992		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1993		0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
1994		0	0	2	1	0	0	4	1
1995		0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1

That report also offers a compelling conclusion regarding Carter’s use of 12 years to acquire tenure in the CBA:

The data above suggest that all 12 years of Carter’s tenure clock were needed. According to EBSCOhost (1979-1996), Carter produced five C-level publications and one “Other” publication. Of the five C-level publications, one was published during Period I (i.e., 1979-1984), and four were published during Period II (i.e., 1989-1995), using the Periods identified in the previous report. Thus, even after 12 years Carter’s tenure appears to have been a close call.

From the data compiled by USMPRIDE.COM investigators, it’s hard to imagine that Carter’s career timeline in the CBA would have done anything other than assist in Green’s lawsuit against Carter, CBA Dean Tyrone Black, USM VPAA David Huffman, USM President Aubrey Lucas, USM and the IHL.

The next issue in this series will examine another of the “denominators” in this case.

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.

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

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.



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