

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 9 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 Jim Henderson Denominator

USMPRIDE.COM archives contain a *Special Report* about a recent trip to Orlando made by associate professor of accounting Jim Henderson. The headline from that report is presented below:

Special Report

James Henderson "Present[s] Paper" in Orlando An Investigative Series on CoB Travel

What made Henderson's trip to Orlando most interesting was not necessarily the \$1,300 price tag associated with it (see below) as much as it was that Henderson is not known around the CoB as someone interested in academic research.

Total Other Expenses	\$293.04
Total Expenses	\$1,322.81
MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED → \$1,322.81	

In fact, when the *Special Report* investigators looked at Henderson's SEDONA vita, all they found under the "Intellectual Contributions" heading was an entry for Henderson's dissertation. Not only that, Henderson's entire SEDONA record (as of early May 2006) consists of little more than 100 total words. The analysis section of that particular *Special Report* is shown below:

Additional Analysis

Henderson's "Purpose and Place of Visit" entry is Niroomand-esque in that it is about as non-descriptive as it could possibly be. A check of Henderson's SEDONA records (as of 5/2/2006) indicates that he would not be considered "research active" in the usual sense of the term. In the **INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS** section of Henderson's SEDONA vita there is a single entry only. That entry is presented below:

INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

Dissertation

An Empirical Investigation of the Dichotomous Effects with Respect to External Credibility and Microeconomic Impact.

In fact, Henderson's SEDONA vita contains just over 100 words, making it only slightly more word-intensive than Posey's 79-word SEDONA record (see other reports at usmpride.com). There are no entries on Henderson's record relating to paper presentations in any location.

What we do know is that this was a \$1,300+ trip, paid for by USM. There is no record in the CoB (SEDONA is the "single-source" of CoB information) of anything resembling an academic contribution regarding this 2004 trip to Orlando.

Why would *Henderson* want to be in *Orlando* in *January* of 2004?

There is little doubt within the CoB that Henderson's academic records would have supported Trellis Green's lawsuit against CBA administrators.

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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