

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 1 in that series.

The Green Suit: Fact or Myth?

In mid-1994, then-assistant professor of economics at USM Trellis G. Green filed suit against USM and the Mississippi IHL over the denial of his application for promotion to associate professor. It happened. It is not a myth. It's important to point this out now, about 12 years later, because it often seems as though those in the CoB who are loyal to the parties named in the suit or to various CoB administrations (past and present) would like us to believe that Green's suit is just a myth – that it never really happened. But, it did happen.

The headline you see below was taken from a local newspaper (*The Student Printz*) at the time Green's suit against the University and the IHL was filed.



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

Not only did Green file suit against USM and the IHL, he also named four individuals in his lawsuit alleging improper denial of his promotion application, as the headline above indicates. Those four individuals were Aubrey Lucas, David Huffman, Tyrone Black, and George Carter.

The Defendants

The first three individual defendants listed in the headline above held high-level posts within USM at the time (mid-1994), as shown below:

- Aubrey Lucas, former President of the University of Southern Mississippi
- David Huffman, former Vice President for Academic Affairs, USM
- Tyrone Black, former Dean of the College of Business Administration, USM

The fourth person listed by name in the headline above is the CoB's own George Carter, who held the position of Chair of the Department of Economics and International Business at the time. This new series at USMPRIDE.COM will explore the Green lawsuit, drawing parallels to current events in the College of Business involving George Carter and other administrators. Whether you are an old hand, or you are new to the CoB, today's connection to the past will appear much clearer through this important new series that will update periodically at USMPRIDE.COM throughout the remainder of fall semester 2006.