

# The Mystery Machine

## More on Harold Doty's 1990-95 Stint at the UofAR

To many USMNEWS.net readers, former CoB dean Harold Doty's professional past is one of the more intriguing subjects among the many that have been covered here over the past (almost) three years. That Doty received two academic promotions -- the only two available in academe -- without ever having to submit a promotion and tenure dossier in the traditional way is interesting to some.

Doty's move to SU in the mid-1990s came after his first academic appointment. That appointment was as an assistant professor of management at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He was posted at Arkansas from 1990 until 1995, or about as long as one stays at an institution (as a tenure-track assistant) before becoming tenured. Doty was not, however, tenured by UA. What happened there? All sorts of stories have been circulating since 1995, with most of them having something to do with professional troubles, possibly involving legal tangles, on Doty's part. The whole 1990-95 stint at UA is shrouded in secrecy to some degree. When CoB economics professor Charles Sawyer served as a visiting professor at UA in the summer of 2006, he attempted to learn more about Doty's stint in Fayetteville. But, as Sawyer would tell several CoBers upon his return to USM, the instant Doty's name was mentioned in the hallways of UA, conversations would cease and groups would disperse. To hear Sawyer tell it, Harold Doty is *persona non grata* at the University of Arkansas.

Overall the past several weeks, new evidence has emerged that supports previous stories about Doty (and Sawyer's experience with UA faculty). That evidence comes via Doty's own 7-July-08 testimony, as a defendant no less, in a federal court case. The exchange between Doty and the plaintiff's counsel, which includes an interjection from Doty's counsel, is inserted below:

Plaintiff's Counsel --	"After you finished your PhD, what was your first employment?"
Harold Doty --	"University of Arkansas at Fayetteville."
Plaintiff's Counsel --	"And how long did you stay at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville?"
Harold Doty --	"Five years."
Plaintiff's Counsel --	"What position did you hold there?"
Harold Doty --	"Assistant professor."
Plaintiff's Counsel --	"And of what?"

Harold Doty --	"Management."
Plaintiff's Counsel --	"Were you on a tenured track?"
Harold Doty --	"Yes."
Plaintiff's Counsel --	"Did you obtain tenure?"
Harold Doty --	"I did not apply for tenure there."
Plaintiff's Counsel --	"Can you tell us why you did not apply for . . . . "
Defendant's Counsel --	"I'm going to instruct the witness not to answer this question. . ."
Plaintiff's Counsel --	"So where did you go after you left Fayetteville?"
Harold Doty --	"Syracuse, New York."

Once again the question about Doty's days in Arkansas was dodged, and whatever secrets are being protected by those that know the truth remained safe and sound.

Even though Doty's past remained shrouded in secrecy as late as July-08, there is a growing sense that we may all soon know more about this, and about many other controversial episodes involving him. When that time comes, so many things that may be difficult to understand now will likely become crystal clear.