

Visitors

We will, from time to time, report who visits usmnews.net. State organizations like the Institutions of Higher Learning visit, daily. We'll review their habits in a future report. Today, let's look at a visitor from University of West Florida, Pensacola, Florida. This particular visitor was interested in reviewing reports about Lee P. Gore. Mr. Gore was longtime counsel at the University of Southern Mississippi until he was "retired" or "fired"—depending on who you ask. He ultimately ended up as university counsel at UWF.

Lest we forget Mr. Gore's history at USM, let's review our last report about him at usmnews.net (October 2011):

Lee Gore: "Every professor's first name is 'Plaintiff'"

Even though Lee Gore was replaced as university counsel [about a year ago](#), he remained on the university payroll for many months. As with many unwanted faculty, he remained on the payroll while his replacement served as university counsel. Not too surprisingly, Gore began looking to become university counsel somewhere even before his non - salaried non - job came to an end.

But whether Gore was "canned" as university counsel for some real or perceived failure, the question you should ask is what the faculty at [West Florida University](#) can expect from Lee Gore if he is hired as your university counsel? At Southern Miss, his position was that every professor's first name, as far as he was concerned, was Plaintiff. Isn't that a strange attitude? Shouldn't part of a university counsel's job be to advise administrators so that university rules and procedures are administered fairly and in an even handed manner? However, Gore's job appears to have been to clean up the messes created by administrative failures.

Let me give you an example, Gore spent years looking for a reason to fire a tenured full professor because the administration and a mob of faculty didn't like his speech. They seemed to be of the school, if you can't agree, shut up and keep it to yourself. After years of looking, they discovered the obvious. There was no reason to fire him. In fact, internal grievances sat on Gore's desk for years – yes, years – with no action taken. (You may ask why grievances are sent to lawyers instead of being processed in accordance with university rules by the designated administrators. However, don't expect an answer. None was ever forthcoming at Southern Miss.)

Finally, outraged at usmnews.net and internal grievances, Gore was called in to find evidence to accomplish what the administrators and mob could not do for themselves. He, with the cooperation of [President Martha Saunders](#), began a course of conduct intended to – if not find – create evidence to eliminate a faculty who was unwilling to be suitably agreeable. Not too surprisingly, it ended up in litigation. In a self - fulfilling prophecy, the professor's first name became "plaintiff." As a consequence, Southern Miss hired two outside law firms, and experts to assist at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the meantime, while the faculty was told not to enter his office, he remained and remains a tenured, full - professor with full pay and benefits.

Lee Gore, the outside firms, and experts searched far and wide to find any evidence to fire the professor. Since there were no facts, Gore adopted rumors and anonymous accusations as the basis to begin the process of eliminating the professor. He treated these claims as if they were supported by a single iota of fact. Lee Gore, in support of administrators and a mob faculty, used the rumors and anonymous accusations as "cause" to begin the process of terminating the faculty member's tenure and employment. Years and millions of dollars later, Gore and the administrators whom he attempted to aid in silencing a troublesome faculty, had failed. The professor remains a tenured full professor.

This is not an isolated example. You are invited to search usmnews.net for various publications concerning Lee Gore's dubious role in a variety of university activities.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. You know what you'll be getting with Lee Gore as university counsel.

However, so will your administration. Perhaps he's exactly what they want. If so, don't be too surprised if your first name becomes "plaintiff".

If you are experiencing legal or potential legal issues with Lee Gore, let us know. We have records and information that may help your cause.

Marc DePree
marcdepree@gmail.com