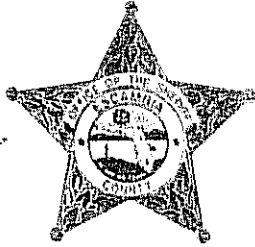


Sheriff



DAVID MORGAN

March 24, 2011

Honorable Roger Vinson, Senior U.S. District Judge
Northern District of Florida
United States Courthouse
One North Palafox Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Senior Judge Vinson,

There is no honor in this acquiescence. Yet what can be only defined as an impending media circus must be avoided. I cannot and will not be a player to a diminution or denigration of the judicial process. This is evidenced by the most recent filings by local defense attorneys asking that as Sheriff and Executive Officer of the Court, I stay away from prospective jurors in an upcoming Billings Trial. The Criminal Defense Bar and the Public Defender's Office are well aware that I had voluntarily agreed to suspend these greetings during these selections for I was the "public face" of these cases. I will not be a party to this. Furthermore, it has been suggested by members of the local media that I be photographed greeting prospective jurors. This also is something I will not be a party to, and as a public official, it would be unavoidable. Therefore, I am ceasing the greetings of prospective jurors effective immediately.

While I am fully confident that this issue would eventually result in a favorable ruling by the courts, it is not prudent to hobble the Offices of the State Attorney, and the courts in hearing after hearing in motions to suppress, dismiss, etc.

Forgive my intellectual shortcomings. I cannot wrap my mind around this reasoning. For in "jury selection" prospective jurors may be subjected to core belief questions such as abortion, prayer in schools, the death penalty, child molestation, and domestic violence, in an attempt to seat a panel most favorable to your position (client). Courses are taught in the "science" of jury selections, and legal research companies specialize in the "profiling of jurors." These are accepted practices.

Yet a simple "thank you for your service" in answering a jury summons and becoming a part of the judicial process (by a sheriff) is painted to be an insidious assault and an attempt to skew the outcome of a trial(s).

This is contorted logic at best. And at worst, this acceptance is yet but one more step down the rungs of our societal ladder of decency and civility. I find it despicable.

Regretfully,


Sheriff Morgan

ESCAMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Telephone (850) 436-9512 • www.escambiaso.com • P.O. Box 18770 • Pensacola, Florida 32523