

**IN THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY**

**IN RE: THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BELL  
JUDGE, GENERAL SESSIONS COURT  
COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**DOCKET NO. M2008-00932-CJ-CJ-CJ  
Complainant: Dan A. Metcalf  
File No. 06-2741**

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**AFFIDAVIT OF JENNIFER SHELTON**

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STATE OF TENNESSEE     )  
                                          ) ss  
COUNTY OF KNOX         )

I, Jennifer Shelton, under sworn oath, do hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and make this affidavit of my own personal knowledge.
2. I reside at 953 Thinwood Drive in Newport, Tennessee with my husband and son.
3. I am Director of Court Services for the General Sessions and Juvenile Court for Cocke County, Tennessee.
4. I am a 1985 graduate of Cocke County High School and a 1989 graduate of the University of Tennessee, with a BA in Sociology.
5. Since college, I have worked at the Credit Bureau of East Tennessee (1991) and at the admissions office of the University of Tennessee (1991).
6. In October 1991, I was hired by the Juvenile Court for Cocke County as a Youth Services Officer by Marcus Mooneyham. I was responsible for handling juvenile probation for the county. The Department of Children Services (DCS) was responsible for handling juvenile probation for the State.

7. At this time (1991), the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency, Inc ("ETHRA") was handling all adult probation service. ETHRA was also handling some juvenile probation services. So, there were three separate entities handling probation services for juveniles.

8. In 1994, I was promoted to Lead Youth Services Officer ("Lead YSO"), which consisted of more administrative work.

9. In September 1998, Judge John Bell took office as the General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge for Cocke County. I had known Judge Bell previously as an attorney and supported Judge Bell in his race for Judge.

10. I continued in my position as Lead YSO under Judge Bell.

11. I was acquainted with Tommy Large in 1999 when he worked as a probation officer for ETHRA. In or about December 1999, Mr. Large left ETHRA and started his own probation services company (East Tennessee Probation, Inc.).

12. I had no discussions with Mr. Large regarding his departure from ETHRA, nor did I discuss with him any potential for conflict as a probation services officer in Judge Bell's court. I knew that Mr. Large was the brother-in-law of Judge Bell's wife.

13. I never witnessed, nor do I have knowledge of, any favors, gifts, or related promises between Mr. Large and Judge Bell.

14. In September 2006, I was appointed Director of Court Services, a new position created by a memorandum of agreement between Judge Bell and the County Mayor, Iliff McMahan. I did not know about the creation of this position in advance, nor did I know that I had been selected to be Director of Court Services. I had not discussed the position with Judge Bell prior to him informing me that I had been selected to fill the position.

15. The position consists of a myriad of responsibilities, primarily selecting and utilizing services for the court. The position did not consist of a pay raise, as I had just recently been given a raise.

16. At this time, while ETHRA was still conducting business in Cocke County, it was not being used for probation services in Judge Bell's court, other than for juveniles. Mr. Large's company was and is the only licensed probation services company in General Sessions Court in Cocke County. County Mayor Iliff McMahan asked me why I didn't use ETHRA for probation services and I responded that I could not find where they were licensed to provide probation services in Cocke County for adult misdemeanor defendants.

17. No one instructed me to use any particular service, including Mr. Large's company, East Tennessee Probation, Inc., in my job as Court Services Officer.

18. I have never felt any pressure from anyone, including Judge Bell, to use East Tennessee Probation, Inc.

19. No one has ever implied that I should use East Tennessee Probation, Inc.

20. Since being appointed Director of Court Services, I have complained about the number of duties for which I am responsible to my supervisor, Mayor McMahan.

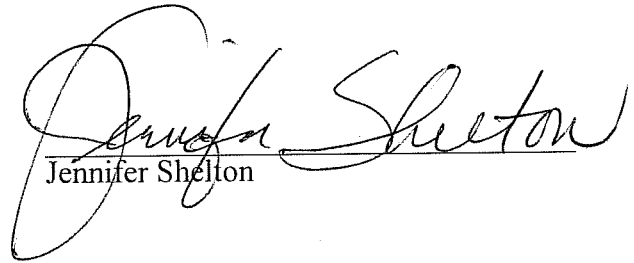
21. Mr. Large is in the court room during all criminal proceedings. This is not unusual, since it is necessary for an agent of the probation services company to be present in court when a defendant is sentenced to probation. I understand that questions have been raised regarding where Mr. Large sits in the court room. However, Mr. Large sits in court at the same location as every previous probation services officer has sat, and the same place probation officers sat when Judge Mooneyham was on the bench prior to Judge Bell's election.

22. The County does not have a written contract with East Tennessee Probation, Inc. Nor does the County have a contract with ETHRA, which provides services pursuant to a grant.

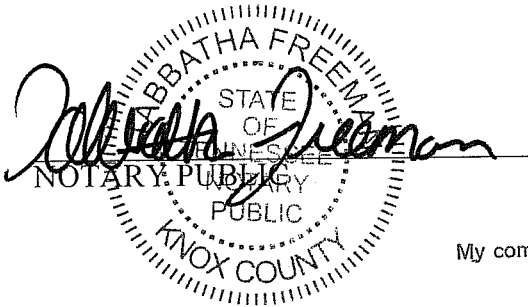
23. Since 2006, Judge Bell has introduced me to one other probation services company that provided services to other counties. Judge Bell informed me that it was my decision whether to hire the company.

24. I have never witnessed and have no knowledge of any immoral, illegal, or unethical conduct on the part of Judge Bell.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

  
Jennifer Shelton

Sworn to and subscribed to before  
me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.



My commission expires Nov. 8, 2008