

Ms. Hughes,

Thank you for allowing me to respond to the comments.

This office has denied any and all misconduct in this case and continues to deny any.

The comments of both the defense and TACDL continue to ignore and fail to address the simple question of how this alleged blackmail was accomplished.

Was the independent grand jury also blackmailed to find probable cause that Miranda Cheatham murdered James Cheatham? The Bradley County Grand Jury did that, not the District Attorney. Was the independent trial jury also blackmailed to find that Miranda Cheatham murdered James Cheatham? They did that, not the District Attorney. And finally, was the independent trial judge also blackmailed to affirm the jury verdict? He did that, not the District Attorney. No prosecutor made any of those decisions. Each of these decisions was made by an independent and different group of people.

If the allegation was that this office was blackmailed to dismiss a case that had been dismissed, at least that is a decision that the prosecutor could make. Clearly that isn't the case.

The only way to insure public confidence in the outcome of this case is for yet another independent group to review the case and its outcome. That was even the urging of the defense in its pleadings.

The comments of TACDL are particularly curious as it has to be the first time this group has ever said that an allegation was anything more than that; merely an accusation. Every year in legal education courses they tell young defense lawyers to tell juries to wait and hear all the evidence and not make their minds up based upon a mere allegation. Apparently that admonition is situational.

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10th Judicial District