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Did Judicial Nominee Commit Perjury in State v. Tisdale?

Trial Attendees Ask Deal to Bypass Clint Bearden Judgeship

DAWSONVILLE GA – VoterGa members sent [notices](#) on Tuesday asking Gov. Nathan Deal to bypass nominee Clint Bearden as a candidate for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit Superior Court bench. The notices cite key parts of Bearden’s State v. Tisdale trial testimony that were shown to be false. Knowingly and willfully issuing false statements under oath is considered [perjury](#). The notices ask Gov. Deal to select one of the other more experienced nominees for the new position.

Bearden testified that candidates speaking during the August 23, 2014 rally at Burt’s Pumpkin Farm did not want to be recorded. However, Bearden’s testimony was impugned by all five of the statewide Republican candidates who were present for the event. Each testified that they had no objections. Those candidates, who were all elected that November, include former Attorney General Sam Olens, Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens, Labor Commissioner Mark Butler, Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black and State School Superintendent Richard Woods. Mr. Hudgens even appeared a second time after Mr. Bearden was recalled and contradicted his testimony. The state was unable to produce a single candidate who objected to being recorded at the rally where Gov. Deal was also present.

Bearden also claimed that he was unaware the event was advertised publicly and he was not involved in the advertising of the event. That testimony was impugned by his own Emails with Dawson County Republican Chair, Linda Clary Umberger. Those Emails discussed advertisements placed in local newspapers to promote the event. In addition, Ms. Umberger testified that she coordinated with Bearden for public event ads that showed him as the event contact person.

Bearden is an attorney in the law offices of House Speaker David Ralston and is a part-time associate magistrate judge. He initiated the arrest of Tisdale while she was openly and quietly recording speeches at the rally. Tisdale was charged but found not guilty of felony obstruction, not guilty of misdemeanor criminal trespass and guilty of misdemeanor obstruction involving the deputy who arrested her. Tisdale records many events and posts them on her AboutForsyth.com website without filtering or political commentary. That included a 2014 State Capitol [press conference](#) where citizens called for the resignation of Speaker Ralston. A 2014 VoterGA “PumpkinGate” [report](#) documented events from Tisdale’s perspective.