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Deal Appoints Bearden Over Others Despite Complaints of Impugned Testimony and Disregard for 1st Amendment

ATLANTA GA – As calls of objections continued to stream into his office late last Thursday afternoon before Christmas weekend, Gov. Nathan Deal appointed Clint Bearden as a Northeastern District Superior Court judge. The appointment came in spite of hundreds of Emails, calls and web site submissions to Gov. Deal's office or the [Judicial Nominating Commission](#). All expressed concerns about Bearden's role in the State v. Tisdale trial case and all requested to bypass Bearden for one of the other 6 more qualified candidates. VoterGA members also delivered a [letter](#) of objection signed by about three dozen individuals to Deal's office on the 19th.

Bearden initiated the arrest of Nydia Tisdale for recording a public campaign rally at Burt's Pumpkin Farm on August 23, 2014. A Dawson County jury found Tisdale innocent of criminal trespass and felony obstruction of an officer but guilty on a misdemeanor obstruction. Judge Martha Christian sentenced her to one-year of probation and a maximum \$1000 fine. Citizens who packed the courtroom in the State v. Tisdale case this month contend that Bearden likely committed [perjury](#).

Bearden testified that candidates speaking during the rally did not want to be recorded but his testimony was impugned by all five statewide Republican candidates who were present as each testified that they had no objections. The state could not produce a single candidate who objected to being recorded at the rally where Gov. Deal also spoke. Bearden also claimed he was unaware the event was advertised publicly and was not involved in the advertising. That testimony was impugned by his own Emails with Dawson County Republican Chair, Linda Clary Umberger. She testified that she coordinated with Bearden for public event ads that showed him as the event contact person. Their Emails discussed advertisements placed in local newspapers to promote the event. [\[Trial video @ 5:23\]](#)

Bearden is an attorney in the law offices of House Speaker David Ralston and a part-time associate magistrate judge. His appointment is reminiscent of Christmas week 2009 when former Gov. Sonny Perdue [appointed](#) Shawn Lagrua as a Fulton County Superior Court judge despite citizen objections to her politicized investigations. Those investigations were publicly documented in 2010 when LaGrua, who served as Inspector General for Secretary of State Karen Handel, was the subject of a [HR1714 Impeachment Resolution](#).

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