

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
AUGUSTA DIVISION

IN RE JOSEPH NEAL, JR.)
) No. MC-112-008
)

DECLARATION

I, Denise de La Rue, do hereby declare, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. I am licensed to practice law in the State of Georgia and am a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

2. I am familiar with the character and reputation of Joe Neal, Jr., and make this Declaration in Support of Joe Neal Jr.'s Motion to Vacate his suspension from practice in this federal district.

3. I am very familiar with the allegations against Joe Neal, Jr., arising out of his indictment on Rape in the Superior Court of Richmond County and am familiar with the resolution of that case.

4. This matter began trial before the Superior Court of Richmond County and resulted in a dismissal of the rape charge and a plea agreement to three non-violent, non-sexual misdemeanors on a separate accusation.

5. I am troubled that the judicial process against Mr. Neal that resulted in the dismissal of the rape charge against him, could now be the basis of what amounts to a retrial of these charges against him in a Bar proceeding in federal court.


6. In particular, Mr. Neal is factually innocent of the charge of rape against him as that charge has been dismissed. Mr. Neal entered a plea of guilty to three misdemeanors; all of which were disposed as first offenses for Mr. Neal. It is my understanding that these types of misdemeanor dispositions rarely, if ever, have been justification for suspension or disbarment.

7. I understand that the trial judge in Superior Court, Judge Blanchard, stated in open court that no rape occurred and I understand that the prosecutor admitted in open court that the alleged victim would not withstand the scrutiny of cross examination.

8. It is my view that it is inappropriate to comment upon the private, consensual sexual conduct of a member of this Bar and that such conduct should not become an issue for resolution for any Court where criminality is not involved.

9. I endorse Mr. Neal for reinstatement as a member of the Bar of the Southern District of Georgia.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing 9 paragraphs are true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on September 17, 2012, in Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Denise de La Rue". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Denise de La Rue