

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

AUGUSTA DIVISION

IN RE JOSEPH NEAL, JR.

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No. MC-112-008

DECLARATION

I, Stephen E. Curry, do here by 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 Southern District of Georgia. I am familiar with the character and reputation of Joe Neal, Jr. as an attorney. I offer this declaration for such uses and purposes as permitted by the Federal Rules of Civil Practice and Federal Rules of Evidence.

2. I have no first or second hand knowledge of the allegations against Joe Neal, Jr., arising out the recent criminal charges in the Superior Court of Richmond County. The sole source of my information about both the charges and outcome of that case are from reading several newspaper accounts. However, it is my general understanding that Mr. Neal's conduct as a lawyer was unrelated to either the charges or the outcome of the case.

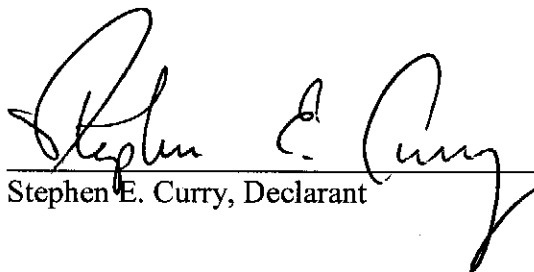
3. Mr. Neal and I have never socialized and I have no source of information regarding his private life and conduct, other than the news accounts I have read. On the other hand, I have dealt with him over the course of many years as an attorney. My first dealings were when he was a criminal prosecutor. My memory is that he was a take no prisoners, all out, prosecutor. Being a former prosecutor myself, I considered that a plus.

4. My second source of contact with him as a lawyer was defending civil cases he filed after he

went into private practice. I am not sure about the number of medical malpractice cases I defended, but I believe it to have been several. One stands out in my mind because the allegations were serious and involved an extremely adverse outcome to the patient. I have a vivid recollection of how aggressively Mr. Neal pursued the case on behalf of the deceased patient's family and that he was ultimately successful in resolving it. In large part because of this case, I have since held a good opinion of both his competence and, more importantly, his commitment to his clients. I am not in a position to speak to the matters before the court with regard to Mr. Neal's membership in the United States District Court Bar if they are based on private conduct about which I have no knowledge. However, I can say that, my experience with him as a lawyer is that he has been zealous in protecting the interests of his clients in the matters of which I had personal knowledge and that every lawyer would hope that one day the same would be said of him or her.

10. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing are true and correct.

September 17, 2012,

  
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Stephen E. Curry, Declarant