

Brian Wilkins

From: Brian Wilkins [brianw@operation-nation.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2011 12:38 PM
To: 'media@aclu.org'; 'media@dcaclu.org'; 'AskDOJ@usdoj.gov'; 'mpatterson@lsba.org'; 'wroberts@lsba.org'
Subject: Winnfield, LA: Baron Scooter Pikes

To All It Concerns:

First, I'd like to thank all who took the time to read this important email.

I am writing to follow up on a letter the ACLU of Louisiana sent to Winn Parish District Attorney R. Christopher Nevils, dated July 16, 2008 (pasted below). As I'm sure you are aware, the police officer who murdered Mr. Baron "Scooter" Pikes on January 17, 2008, Scott Nugent, was acquitted of manslaughter charges in October of last year. Though the death certificate the ACLU of Louisiana and others are in possession of clearly states that this was a homicide caused by electrocution, Nugent was acquitted anyway. The defense team for Nugent, most of whom are TASER International employees, sold a story to the jury that Mr. Pikes died of "sickle cell." It should be noted that our organization was told by a source close to the trial that the Winn Parish coroner who conducted the autopsy, Dr. Randolph Williams, was banned from the court room by prosecutor Nevils during the trial, which effectively dismissed and sealed the testimony of the coroner, and clearly shows that Nevils was advocating for the defendant and not for the "people," which is his job as prosecutor.

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation...[or] engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. *Louisiana Rules Of Professional Conduct 8.4.*

I am respectfully requesting the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice open an investigation into Nugent and the happenings of, inter alia, January 17, 2008, and pursue murder and/or other charges the department sees fit against Nugent. Further, I am respectfully requesting the Louisiana State Bar conduct an investigation into District Attorney Nevils, as it appears, based on what transpired at Nugent's trial, he was working on behalf of the defense team, displayed on his desire (and success) to remove all black jurors from the jury pool and not allowing testimony from the Winn Parish coroner. I am respectfully requesting the ACLU forward me a copy of the death certificate for Mr. Pikes and any other information you have on the case, as Winn Parish Courts, police, and the prosecutor have ignored all my requests for public information, most notably for a copy of the video tape from the night of the murder; and that you will re-open your case regarding this heinous crime.

Thank you all in advance for your efforts.

CC:
Michael Patterson, Louisiana State Bar President
Stephanie A. Finley, U.S. Attorney's Office of Western Louisiana
Marjorie Esman, Executive Director, ACLU Louisiana

Brian A. Wilkins

<http://brianw@operation-nation.com>

Operation Nation and the OP-NAT EYE

PO Box 50854

Phoenix, AZ 85076

<http://blog.operation-nation.com>

KEEPING U.S. GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA HONEST

P.O. BOX 56157 MARJORIE R. ESMAN
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70156 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
P: (504) 52 2-0617
F: (888) 534-2995
www.laclu.org

July 16, 2008
R. Chris Nevils
Winn Parish District Attorney
P.O. Box 1374
Winfield, LA 71483-1374

Dear Mr. Nevils,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana writes to you concerning your office's investigation and possible prosecution in the case of the death of Baron DeAundrae Pikes. As you are aware, Mr. Pikes died on January 17, 2008 in Winn Parish while in police custody. Mr. Pikes' State of Louisiana Death Certificate states that his death occurred when he was "electro shocked X 9 while in police custody and restraint." The certified document goes on to state the cause of Mr. Pikes' death to be "Cardiac Arrest following nine 50,000 volt electroshock applications from a conductive electrical weapon."

The American Civil Liberties Union is dedicated to the principle that *all people* should be treated equally under the law. Civilians and members of law enforcement must equally obey the law and must also face equal treatment by the government when they disobey the law. Once the Louisiana State Police conclude their investigation, it is our hope that the Winn Parish District Attorney's Office will employ the same rigorous procedures in making prosecutorial decisions concerning the death of Mr. Pikes as the office employs in making prosecutorial decisions in all other parish deaths. Additionally, we hope the District Attorney's office pursues restitution in Mr. Pikes' case as aggressively as it would in any other Winn Parish death. An investigation lacking in integrity, fairness, or transparency following the tragic death of Mr. Pikes will only serve to further fracture the public's trust in the Winn Parish Criminal Justice System.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Esman
Executive Director
cc: Colonel Michael D. Edmonson, Louisiana State Police