

ROBERT EDWIN BURNS
4155 Essen Lane, Apt. 228
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-2152
225-235-4346

January 13, 2014

Letters to the Editor, The Advocate
P O BOX 588
BATON ROUGE LA 70821-0588

PAINTER TRIAL EXPOSES JINDAL WITCH HUNT & EMBARASSES U. S. ATTORNEY

As a former Federal Government fraud investigator, I was appalled at the pathetically weak government case of U. S. v. Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) Commissioner Murphy Painter. I attended the entire trial, and I welcome everyone to visit www.gohs1981.com to see, on a prosecution witness-by-witness basis, just how weak the prosecution's case was.

Painter defense attorney Michael Fawer superbly exposed to the jury members, who clearly concurred, just what the case was: a political witch hunt orchestrated by Gov. Bobby Jindal. Mr. Painter refused to grant a liquor license to Champions Square because it violated Louisiana law by granting Budweiser exclusivity via a \$300,000 "sponsorship." At the trial's conclusion, Fawer said, "this case never should have seen the light of day."

It's no surprise that Jindal and the LA Office of Inspector General (OIG), his patsy agency, would conduct a witch hunt (typical LA politics). It's disturbing and disheartening, however, when the U. S. Government involves itself in such a clearly politically-motivated prosecution. This case was an utter embarrassment to the U. S. Attorney's Office, so much so that Judge Brady, clearly not desiring to, had to publicly humiliate the U. S. Attorneys by dismissing three "identity theft" counts by stating from the bench, "they never should have been included in the indictment."

Simultaneous to the Painter trial, the OIG released a damning report regarding payroll practices of two State Boards directly under Jindal's control sharing the same sole-employee Executive Director. Jindal was alerted to payroll problems at the two Boards as far back as February 29, 2012 via a report by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office (LAO). For readers who visit www.gohs1981.com, an audio clip link is available in which the attorney for both Boards, Anna Dow, essentially relays that, "Gov. Jindal has our back." The LAO referred the matter to EBRP District Attorney Hillar Moore for potential criminal prosecution. Mr. Moore then forwarded the matter to the OIG. The OIG issued its report (available at www.gohs1981.com) confirming that the Executive Director was taking vacations out-of-state yet claiming to be "on the clock" and that she lied to OIG investigators about doing so, which resulted in the OIG recommending

“appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination.” Conspicuously absent from the report were numerous pre-2012 episodes of such activity. Was this due to Jindal’s alleged “I’ve got your back” support? After all, Jindal had to approve the report before its release to the public.

Anyone considering reporting governmental waste and abuse to the OIG should be prepared to assess Gov. Jindal’s role. He can make the U. S. Attorney’s Office spectacularly embarrass itself while simultaneously covering up wrongdoing of State Boards for whom he makes the appointments.



Robert Edwin Burns
Retired Real Estate Auctioneer