

From: "Ted Hill" <hilltp66@charter.net>
To: "Stefan Ritter" <Stefan.Ritter@LAW.State.GA.US>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2006 2:38 PM
Subject: For the Record

Mr. Ritter,

Georgia Tech has continued to provide false and delayed responses to my ORA requests. Recent delays prevented me from providing complete and accurate information, in my interview in Washington, D.C., in the Federal investigation described below.

You advised me "that the Georgia Attorney General's Office does not prosecute misdemeanor charges against alleged violators of the Open Records Act; when such prosecutions occur they are handled by a district attorney", and suggested that for violations in Fulton County (e.g. at Georgia Tech), the appropriate District Attorney is Paul Howard.

I contacted Mr. Howard's office and was told pointblank that "the District Attorney's Office does not prosecute misdemeanors", which is consistent with their stated Mission on their website. They then advised me that the Fulton County Solicitor's Office is the agency that prosecutes misdemeanors, such as violations of the Open Records Act.

I next contacted the Fulton County Solicitor's Office, and their attorney Roland Kanaut advised me that their office does indeed prosecute misdemeanors in Fulton County, but never prosecutes any State agency (such as Georgia Tech officials). Mr. Kanaut then told me that, if the allegations were misdemeanor violations by State officials, that would be prosecuted by the State Attorney General's Office. Hence, back to your office.

It appears that, in regards to the Open Records Act, certain State employee officials and attorneys (your clients?) are simply above the law, which certainly helps explain their actions.

The law is not perfect - I understand that. But "flaws" like this should be made known to Georgia citizens, so that they do not have any illusions about justice, and about the seriousness of Open Records, as I certainly have had.

Please note that in the past, I waited until I had concrete allegations of over 30 violations of the ORA by Georgia Tech officials before I contacted the Attorney General. My record of complaint was "lost" twice, but after my allegations were finally investigated, your office (Mike Hobbs, who does not approve of my activism), conceded that some of my allegations did indeed have merit (i.e., Georgia Tech officials had knowingly and willingly violated the ORA).

Since it appears that your office is unable to prevent, and unwilling to

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punish such violations (even after there is concrete evidence of such from a formal investigation), I will simply continue to report violations to your office, for the permanent record, and to post my experiences with these processes on the Internet.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Ted Hill
Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, Georgia Tech