

Justice Is Everyone's Business

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Seeking to Restore Integrity and Public Trust in Our Justice System

February 25, 2020

Attorney General Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Department of Justice
1162 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301-4096

Dear General Rosenblum:

Allow us to cite a key passage in your webpage:

“ ... The strength of Oregon’s government depends on public trust ...”

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/office-of-the-attorney-general/spotlight-public-records-reform/>

We wish to report two public servants who operate under the color of law in Oregon, but have egregiously and publicly violated their oaths of office, thus destroying public trust. One is a judge, the other a District Attorney. Those persons are:

Thomas (“Tom”) M. Hart, Judge
Marion County Circuit Court

Paige Clarkson, District Attorney
Marion County

Their misdeeds are reported and documented in a seven-part story entitled “The Siege on Summer Street,” published by *Everyone’s Business*. <http://www.everyones-business.org/SummerStreet> For your reading convenience, I attach Parts 1 and 7 with this letter.

Yes, we have reported the transgressions to the State Bar Association. The conduct of Hart and Clarkson however, suggests that they are not afraid of Bar sanction.

But as elected officials, with sworn statements they will perform the duties of their office “faithfully and impartially,” both persons surely come under the purview of your office?

Both Judge Hart and District Attorney Clarkson have sworn to support the Constitution of the United States and Oregon. Those constitutions guarantee accused persons the right to a speedy and open trial. In *State vs. Kenneth Ketchem*, Mr. Ketchem is declaring his innocence, and is demanding a jury trial, his right under the 6th Amendment. Both Judge Hart and the District Attorney are attempting to deny him such a trial.

Instead, both are attempting to coerce him into signing a plea bargain. You can hear Judge Hart and the District Attorney representative discussing the plea bargain in a court recording, captured in Part 7 on our webpage.

If he decides to accept the bargain, Mr. Ketchem would have to sign the *Uniform Plea Petition*, certifying he had not been threatened or promised anything in return for the plea. Both Judge Hart and the District Attorney are on record as having cooperated in “threatening and promising.” They are therefore accessories in the attempt to suborn perjury.

Could it be that lying in a sworn statement to the court is an approved practice in Oregon? What is your opinion?

You can also listen to Judge Hart -- in that same recording -- threatening to prosecute *Everyone’s Business* for publishing information on the case. He described our reportage as “interfering with this prosecution” and “interference with the wheels of justice.”

Perhaps Judge Hart was hinting that he would apply a criminal statute to Everyone's Business reportage; his wording suggests prosecution under [ORS 162.235 Obstructing governmental or judicial administration](#) (a Class A misdemeanor) or [ORS 162.325 Hindering prosecution](#) (a Class C felony).

This is a threat to abrogate free speech and freedom of the press -- a direct violation of the 1st. Amendment.

We would like to know your opinion on these subjects, and will publish your response to this letter, so our readers may be informed.

Sincerely,

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cc: Grant Neighborhood Association