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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 09/09/2008

EDWARD J. PETERS, white male, date of birth, January 4, 1938, Mississippi Driver's License number, 001502644, address, 1180 Pine Acres Lane, Terry, Mississippi 39170, was advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and of the purpose of the interview. Thereafter, he voluntarily provided the following information:

It should be noted that this interview was conducted in accordance to Rule 11 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure. A proffer agreement was executed and signed. Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSA) ROBERT H. NORMAN, CHAD LAMAR, JIMMY MAXWELL, First AUSA TOM DAWSON and Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section Trial Attorney TIMOTHY KELLY were present during the interview. PETERS was represented by CYNTHIA A. STEWART. The interview took place at the United States Attorney's Office in Oxford, Mississippi.

PETERS stated that BROWN VS. WOODS was a case that was before Mississippi Circuit Court Judge BOBBY DELAUGHTER. PETERS' law partner, JOHN DAVIDSON, represented the plaintiffs in the case. PETERS did not perform any work in regard to this case. He remembered that a default judgement had been entered and that DELAUGHTER refused to set aside the default judgement just before the mediation date. PETERS does not remember talking to DELAUGHTER about this matter. PETERS did not receive any money from the one million dollar settlement.

TIM CARPENTER, the service manager of Toyota in Jackson, Mississippi called PETERS and stated that the family of Jackson Police Officer JEFFREY MIDDLETON wanted to hire him to defend him against a vehicular manslaughter charge. PETERS met with the family at CARPENTER's office. PETERS told the family that their current attorney, TOMMY MAYFIELD, was a good attorney, but that he would help MAYFIELD *if Mayfield agreed + wanted Peters to do so, because the Defendant was a law enforcement officer on duty.*

Attorney WINSTON THOMPSON called PETERS and asked PETERS to help him with the representation of a civil suit for the family of the deceased victim that was killed in the automobile accident with MIDDLETON. PETERS agreed to help because he thought this *could* would keep MIDDLETON from going to jail. However, PETERS did *not* have *think*

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File # 194A-JN-32628
SA John Quaka

Date dictated 09/10/2008

by _____

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he could possibly
~~hopes of receiving~~ some monetary benefit even though there was not *any*
~~a fee~~ agreement with THOMPSON.

MIDDLETON's criminal case was set before DELAUGHTER. PETERS knew that in ~~the~~ criminal case, DELAUGHTER would sentence *any defendant* (MIDDLETON) based upon the recommendation of the victim's family. DELAUGHTER had told PETERS in the past that this was his philosophy. The victim's family recommended to the court that MIDDLETON not go to jail. DELAUGHTER then sentenced him to no jail time. PETERS did not receive any money from the civil settlement *of the defendant.*

In regard to the EATON V. FRISBY case, PETERS stated that five or six engineers ended their employment with EATON. When they departed, they took computer programs with them. These engineers accepted employment with FRISBY and competed against EATON for a hydraulic pump contract. EATON sued FRISBY for the theft of trade secrets. Five engineers were also indicted in a parallel criminal case.

In regard to the civil case, EATON was represented by MIKE SHAUMAN of the QUARLES and BRADY law firm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and by MIKE ALLRED of Jackson, Mississippi. SHAUMAN requested PETERS to assist as trial counsel in the civil case. This civil case was set before DELAUGHTER in the Mississippi Circuit Court.

PETERS read the Special Master's report and recommendation during a meeting at ALLRED's office. PETERS then *later* had lunch with DELAUGHTER and told him that he and attorney RUEBEN ANDERSON were representing EATON. PETERS told DELAUGHTER that the Special Master's report was very hurtful to EATON. PETERS asked DELAUGHTER to read the report for its content and to be cognizant of the "smoke and mirrors" that were contained in the report.

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can't believe
no,
PETERS admitted to having ex parte communication with DELAUGHTER about the EATON case. PETERS may have talked to DELAUGHTER about this aspect of the case on more than this one occasion. *he believed* DELAUGHTER did eventually change the Special Master's report to a position that was helpful to EATON.

United States District Court Judge LEE asked DELAUGHTER to stay the civil depositions of the EATON case so that criminal case of EATON could go forward. ~~DELAUGHTER asked PETERS what he should do.~~ PETERS told him that he should do whatever the federal judge asked him to do. *which was contrary to the Judge's Order for staying the Ms. Sup. Ct.*

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~~PETERS advised that DELAUGHTER needed a Special Master in the EATON case.~~ DELAUGHTER told PETERS that he did not use Special Masters and would not know who to appoint as a Special Master. PETERS told DELAUGHTER that LARRY LATHAM would make a good Special Master. DELAUGHTER did appoint LATHAM as Special Master. PETERS called LATHAM and congratulated him for being appointed Special Master. Sometime later, PETERS called LATHAM back and told him not to mention his name to anyone. PETERS was afraid of being attacked by the press for this action.

Months later.

PETERS believes that he had influence over DELAUGHTER in the EATON case. PETERS' presence in the court was influence for his client. PETERS' oral fee agreement with EATON was to be one percent of the total money recovered. PETERS advised that the case was worth two hundred million dollars.

possibly In regard to the WILSON VS. SCRUGGS case, PETERS was not involved in the decision making or knowledge of the facts of the case. PETERS advised that it was clear to ~~him~~ ^{him} that he was not being hired by JOEY LANGSTON to work ~~on the case~~ ^{ultimately}, but to influence DELAUGHTER. Nobody told him that he would be doing trial work. PETERS knew that the RICHARD SCRUGGS' defense team was interested in his relationship with DELAUGHTER.

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ultimately ~~When~~ PETERS was paid fifty thousand dollars in cash, it was clearly understood that he had been hired to influence DELAUGHTER. PETERS does not recall if there was any discussion of a federal judgeship for DELAUGHTER at this specific meeting. The reverse contingency fee plan did not arise at this meeting, but at a later date.

PETERS stated that he brought up the fact that DELAUGHTER was interested in a federal judgeship. He told the SCRUGGS' defense team that he could not attend a meeting with them because he was meeting with some one else who might be able to help DELAUGHTER become a federal judge. STEVE PATTERSON or LANGSTON told PETERS that he wanted PETERS to know that SCRUGGS could obtain the assistance of Mississippi United States Senator TRENT LOTT in order to assist DELAUGHTER obtain a federal judgeship. PETERS was very glad to hear this statement. PETERS does not remember exactly when this conversation took place, but did remember that it happened in the early stages of his employment with LANGSTON.

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~~PETERS thought that if DELAUGHTER could "help" SCRUGGS, then SCRUGGS could "help" DELAUGHTER. PETERS stated that DELAUGHTER's "help" to SCRUGGS would consist of favorable treatment. Based upon PETERS conversations with DELAUGHTER, PETERS believes that DELAUGHTER understood this agreement.~~

~~PETERS stated that he facilitated communication between SCRUGGS and DELAUGHTER.~~ *Never talked to Scruggs.*

PETERS told DELAUGHTER about the conversation he had with either PATTERSON or LANGSTON. DELAUGHTER stated that it was good, but that it would not decide the case. Even though DELAUGHTER knew that PETERS was working for LANGSTON, PETERS did not tell him about his reverse contingency fee plan.

Sometime later, PETERS expressed to DELAUGHTER that SCRUGGS was not doing enough to help DELAUGHTER obtain a federal judge position. When ever PETERS asked PATTERSON about current vacant federal judge positions, PATTERSON would tell PETERS that DELAUGHTER would get the next one. Once PATTERSON stated that the "Turk" was going to get the current judgeship. Once he stated that the current judgeship was going to be determined by Mississippi United States Senator THAD COCHRAN. PETERS always passed this information from PATTERSON on to DELAUGHTER.

~~The SCRUGGS' defense team gave PETERS copies of their briefs that they were anticipating to be filed. PETERS took these copies and presented them to DELAUGHTER. DELAUGHTER told PETERS what his ruling was going to be. If DELAUGHTER's ruling was going to be adverse to SCRUGGS, DELAUGHTER would tell PETERS that the SCRUGGS' team needed legal authority of why DELAUGHTER should not rule against them. DELAUGHTER never told PETERS that he not allowed to act in this manner. DELAUGHTER never told PETERS that he was going to have to report this contact with PETERS to WILSON's legal team.~~

PETERS stated that the Motion to Quantify dealt with a dismissal of an appeal.

Some time after the WILSON VS. SCRUGGS trial, PETERS was fishing in Cocatrice, Louisiana when he received a telephone call from DELAUGHTER. DELAUGHTER stated that he had received a telephone call from LOTT. PETERS had no advance warning that LOTT was going to call DELAUGHTER.

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After the trial, another federal judgeship did become open. PATTERSON said PETERS needed to do some work on his own to help DELAUGHTER. PATTERSON told PETERS that he need to get COCHRAN's support.