

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To: Pisarik, Holly <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 3/1/2016 11:55:44 AM
Subject: FW: Questions, document inquiry...

Coming to follow up with you on this.

From: Wingo, Karen [mailto:Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:24 AM
To: Symmes, Brian
Cc: Matheus, Marilyn
Subject: Fwd: Questions, document inquiry...

Brian,
I am heading into a meeting with Sen. Bryant shortly, but should be able to call you after it wraps up and get your insight on this request.

Thanks,
Karen

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Catone, Tony" <Tony.Catone@dss.sc.gov>
Date: March 1, 2016 at 10:16:36 AM EST
To: "Alford, Susan" <Susan.Alford@dss.sc.gov>, "Wingo, Karen" <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Questions, document inquiry...

Karen would you like to get together to work on this? I can start by drafting some answers to Mr. Aiken's inquiries.

Tony Catone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ron Aiken <Ron@thenerve.org>
Date: March 1, 2016 at 9:54:30 AM EST
To: "marilyn.matheus@dss.sc.gov" <marilyn.matheus@dss.sc.gov>
Cc: "tony.catone@dss.sc.gov" <tony.catone@dss.sc.gov>, "susan.alford@dss.sc.gov" <susan.alford@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: Questions, document inquiry...

Pleasure talking to you this morning! My story is running tomorrow, so I need to ask for a quick turnaround on these if possible. First, I need a copy of the information presented to the Senate General Committee last week. Email is perfectly fine if possible.

Second, I'm doing a story off a tip about the qualifications of Anthony Catone, general counsel.

On his application for employment, he lists working as a lawyer at Murray & Grantland from 8/2003 to 9/2005. According to the S.C. Bar Association, Mr. Catone was not admitted to the bar until 11/15/2004.

The job position also required seven years of being a practicing lawyer – not just a licensed lawyer. On his application, the only law firms Mr. Catone worked for as a practicing lawyer were the aforementioned Murray & Grantland (2004-2005) and was in private practice also from 2005-2008. His other positions were with universities either teaching or in the youth learning institute at Clemson. That would mean just four years of being a practicing lawyer.

So...my questions, for Mr. Catone, director Alford or whomever else could answer, are the following:

- 1) Why does Mr. Catone's application contain false information? Was it falsified to increase the number of years it appeared he was a practicing lawyer?
- 2) Why was a candidate with no prior experience in DSS (job requires knowledge of Agency policies, procedures, rules and regulations) who did not meet the minimum requirements for the job hired?
- 3) Does director Alford feel it is ethical to hire one's friends in general, and specifically, when they are underqualified for the jobs awarded? Is hiring underqualified people for positions of leadership a good practice for DSS?

Again, on a short turnaround for this one. Very much appreciate your help. I'm sure there are answers to the above questions.

Best,
Ron

Ron Aiken
Staff Writer
www.thenerve.org
S.C. Policy Council
@RonAiken
c.803-200-8809