

From: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
To: Symmes, BrianBrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov
CC: Pisarik, HollyHollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov
Date: 3/1/2016 5:34:38 PM
Subject: FW: Questions, document inquiry...

See below.

Karen Luchka Wingo
Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs
South Carolina Department of Social Services
1535 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

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From: Catone, Tony
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 5:25 PM
To: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: FW: Questions, document inquiry...

Ron Aiken's response...favorable

Tony

Anthony S. H. Catone
General Counsel
South Carolina Department of Social Services

Office of General Counsel
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From: Ron Aiken [<mailto:Ron@thenerve.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 5:24 PM
To: Catone, Tony <Tony.Catone@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions, document inquiry...

She has responded in full and answered the questions I had. There was some confusion about the amount of legal work practicing at Clemson since the position description does not mention legal work, but I understand it as it was described to me so we're not running anything.

Appreciate your getting touch, sincerely,
Ron

Ron Aiken
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From: Catone, Tony [<mailto:Tony.Catone@dss.sc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 5:23 PM
To: Ron Aiken <Ron@thenerve.org>
Subject: RE: Questions, document inquiry...

Dear Ron,

I received your email messages and your voicemail today. Please be advised that media inquiries are usually routed to Karen Wingo, the Department's Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs. For your convenience, her contact information is below:

Karen Luchka Wingo
Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs
South Carolina Department of Social Services
1535 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Office Phone: (803) 898-8030
Email: karen.wingo@dss.sc.gov

I hope this is helpful.

With kind regards,

Tony

Anthony S. H. Catone
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From: Ron Aiken [<mailto:Ron@thenerve.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 3:34 PM
To: Matheus, Marilyn <Marilyn.Matheus@dss.sc.gov>
Cc: Catone, Tony <Tony.Catone@dss.sc.gov>; Alford, Susan <Susan.Alford@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions, document inquiry...

Any possibility of a response today? My review of Mr. Catone's information shows a graduation from USC law school in 2004, according to SC Bar Assoc., which means he could not have practiced in 2003 – that would give him a total of four years of experience, three less than required.

Thank you,
Ron

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From: Ron Aiken
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 9:57 AM
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

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