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> THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
In the Matter of
THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
v
THEODORE SMITH
Section 3020-a Education Law Proceeding (File\# ) DATE: May 10, 2007

TIME: 10:03 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

LOCATION: New York City Department of Education
Office of Legal Services
49-51 Chambers Street, 6th Floor
New York, New York
BEFORE:
JACK D. TILLEM, ESQ.
Hearing Officer
20 West Marie Street
Hicksville, New York 11801

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have a copy of that letter. I believe the letter was cc'd to Mr. Kearney. And has a copy been given to the Department?

MR. KEARNEY: It has,
pursuant to your directive Mr. Tillem.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.
And as a result of the statements made in that
letter in which the Respondent claimed that I
am quote, tilted, close quote against him and that I can not, I guess the letter makes clear, render a fair and objective decision.

And apparently some of this
belief on his part stems from a conversation,
which I presume he was eavesdropping on, held
in camera with the attorney for the Department
and the Respondent in which we were attempting
to settle it. And I made a suggestion for a --
a suspension and or a fine and the Respondent
apparently picked this up and somehow concluded
therefore --. Yes, I'm sorry -- is Susan
Jalowski --?
MS. JALOWSKI: Yes, I'm here
now. Sorry there was a transportation problem.

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THE HEARING OFFICER: Go on
the record, please. We're on. I'm just going to note appearances for this telephone conference call. I'm Jack Tillem, the hearing officer.

For the Department?
MS. EUROPE: Terry Europe,
Deputy Counsel to the Chancellor.
THE HEARING OFFICER: For the Respondent?

MR. KEARNEY: David Kearney. THE HEARING OFFICER: And I understand the Respondent is on the call also. MR. SMITH: Yes, Ted Smith. Yes.

THE HEARING OFFICER: All
right. The -- the reason for this call, we originally had this scheduled for a hearing at which I understand the parties were going to make their closing arguments. However, approximately a week or so ago I received a letter from the Respondent, Ms. Smith, and I -I just want to be clear that both sides now

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THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, okay. And he concluded from the snippets of conversation he heard that therefore I am prejudiced. And I have prejudged the case and therefore I can not render a fair conclusion or decision for him, however grievously wrong he is about that and however he misunderstood. Clearly the purpose and the content of that conversation in which we were all trying to settle this matter -- he -- he appears to be impossible to persuade that I could render a fair decision. Therefore I am going to recuse myself so that he has the opportunity to have another arbitrator restore his confidence in the process. And that is my statement at this time. I'm sorry about it. We spent a lot of time on this case but I -- I don't see any other alternative.

MR. SMITH: This is Ted Smith. May I make a statement?

MR. KEARNEY: Ted, you're represented by counsel. I'd advise you not to make any statement.

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| MR. SMITH: Well I do, it's | 1 |
| my right. It's my right to be able to speak. | 2 |
| And I'm going to speak. | 3 |
| MR. KEARNEY: Well then | 5 |
| you're going to have to discharge me as your | 6 |
| counsel, Mr. Smith. | 7 |
| MR. SMITH: I'm -- I'm not | 8 |
| going to discharge you as my counsel and I'm | 9 |
| not pro se. And Mr. Tillem obviously by | 10 |
| recusing yourself you acknowledge you did not | 11 |
| take an impartial approach to my case. In | 12 |
| addition I want a brand new hearing because a | 13 |
| lot of my evidence did not go into the record | 14 |
| since you propose that I accept a three- to | 15 |
| six-month suspension. This before you heard my | 16 |
| testimony or that of my witnesses. In fact on | 17 |
| February 28, 2007, the first day of my direct | 18 |
| testimony Mr. Kearney limited my testimony | 19 |
| based on your initial bias and he did not put | 20 |
| in important evidence. | 21 |
| MR. KEARNEY: Mr. Smith I'm | 22 |

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colleague, Ms. Jalowski, and I would respectfully submit that we have an agreement.
And we have arranged to have Mr. Tillem make a
very clear and definitive statement as to his reasons for recusal and I think that has already been done. And I think that -- if you'd like to talk to me off the record we can do that.

MS. EUROPE: We can do that, sure. But I -- I want to go back on the record as well.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Well, in all fairness to the process I -- I'm
inclined to agree with Ms. Europe but I would
allow you guys to talk off the record for a
while and then we'll see what we're going to do then.

MS. EUROPE: Okay. Does -does everyone want to hold? And do you want to --?

MR. KEARNEY: Yes, can I just call you direct?

THE HEARING OFFICER: I'll be

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you for sharing your thoughts Mr. Smith.
MR. SMITH: Thank you Mr.
Tillem.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Is there anything else anyone wishes to say as to --?

MS. EUROPE: Yes I do. Can you just hold on one second please?
(Off-the-record discussion) MS. EUROPE: Mr. Tillem I was under the impression that you were recusing yourself for reasons other than just that letter. And I would like a clear record made of that.

THE HEARING OFFICER: There are other factors involved in this. I -- I'm not sure at this stage that we need -- get into them. They probably will unfold soon.

MS. EUROPE: I think it has
to be clear why you are actually recusing yourself on this matter.

MR. KEARNEY: Ms. Europe -Ms. Europe I had a discussion with your

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glad to hold.
MS. EUROPE: Okay.
MR. KEARNEY: Can I call your
direct line?
MS. EUROPE: Sure.
MR. KEARNEY: All right,
thanks.
(Off the record)
MR. KEARNEY: There --
there's been an off -- off the record
discussion that was prompted by me, I requested
it in light of my client's gratuitous comments
for the record. And some decisions have been
made. And Mr. Tillem is -- is going to, in
light of Mr. Smith's behavior he's going to
have to amend what he said on the record
previously. Is that -- is that what -- what
happened? Does everyone agree on that?
THE HEARING OFFICER: Well
I'm going to make a statement. I'm going to continue to explain why I'm recusing myself.

MR. KEARNEY: All right.
THE HEARING OFFICER: It --

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| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 1 | Theordore Smith - 5-10-2007 | 1 |
| 2 | it turns out that that is only partly the | 2 |
| 3 | reason and the chances are quite candidly that | 3 |
| 4 | if I had just gotten the letter I wouldn't | 4 |
| 5 | recuse myself because there's no real basis. | 5 |
| 6 | There -- there's no meritory substance to it. | 6 |
| 7 | $\quad$ However, it has been made | 7 |
| 8 | known to me as a result of counsel for the | 8 |
| 9 | Respondent's ethical compliance he has informed | 9 |
| 10 | me that Mr. Smith has made death threats | 10 |
| 11 | against me. And that is the main -- that is | 11 |
| 12 | the real and primary reason that I am recusing | 12 |
| 13 | myself, coupled with his letter and his | 13 |
| 14 | statements, which Mr. Kearney, thank you, has | 14 |
| 15 | informed me of and had to inform me of as an | 15 |
| 16 | ethical requirement of his profession. | 16 |
| 17 |  | 17 |
| 18 | kill me, blow my fuck -- beat my fucking head | 18 |
| 19 | in and other expressions and I don't really | 19 |
| 20 | think that at this point I wish to continue as | 20 |
| 21 | the arbitrator in light of his threats. | 21 |
| 22 | And I trust that something will come of this | 22 |
| 24 | because I do think that he represents a danger. | 24 |

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

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And that is my statement.
MS. EUROPE: Okay. Well we'll
have to have the case reassigned and possibly
further charges will be coming against Mr.
Smith based on his behavior.
MR. KEARNEY: To the extent that counsel has made an ethical disclosure to the court -- to the hearing officer ex parte, I don't think there's any basis for an adversarial proceeding based on that.

MS. EUROPE: I would also suggest, Mr. Tillem, that you file a police report.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Well no. I think it's incumbent upon Mr. Kearney to file the police report since the statement was made to Mr. Kearney and it was transmitted to me. But I do feel threatened and I will take that under advisement.

MR. KEARNEY: Also taken under advisement.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. MS. EUROPE: Okay. Thank you

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## STATE OF NEW YORK

I, Dana Jock, do hereby certify that the foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place, and in the presence of counsel, as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1055 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten transcription, consisting of pages number 1055 through 1066, inclusive, was prepared under my supervision and is a true record of all proceedings had at the hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name, this the 17th day of May, 2007.

Dana Jock, Reporter


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