

Attorney: Further charges likely against Mobile judge accused of paddling prisoners

Posted by [blyman](#) August 07, 2009 07:16AM



(Press-Register, Mary Hattler) Herman Thomas stops to talk to someone before a hearing on July 30, 2009. The former judge's attorney says he's "reasonably certain" more indictments are coming against Thomas, who faces charges of kidnapping, sodomy and extortion.

MOBILE, Ala. -- Herman Thomas' attorney, Bob Clark, said Thursday that he was "reasonably certain" that more indictments against the ex-judge soon would emerge from a special Mobile County grand jury.

The 48-year-old Thomas, who left the [Circuit Court](#) bench in October 2007 under pressure, [was indicted in March](#) on charges that included kidnapping, extortion and sodomy in connection with criminal court defendants.

He's accused of sexually assaulting inmates under his power and, in some cases, paddling them. The March indictment listed nine victims.

Clark said he believes that at least two more accusers -- and subsequent indictments -- might spring from a special grand jury session meeting this week at the courthouse at Mobile Government Plaza.

[District Attorney John Tyson Jr.](#) declined comment Thursday and would not say whether a special grand jury had gathered this week. Grand juries meet in private and generally hear only the prosecution's case and not from the defense.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Nicki Patterson, who will head the prosecution against Thomas, was unavailable for comment.

But Clark said Patterson recently hinted there could be more accusers coming down the line.

The attorney also suggested that if more indictments are issued, they would be "more of the same" -- accusations of paddling, sexual misconduct and Thomas' use of office for personal gain.

"We are all grown people," Clark said, and, if new indictments are indeed issued, "I would expect the professional courtesy of (prosecutors) asking me to 'Bring your client down to you-name-it, the courthouse or the docket room,' and we will be there."

Thomas' March arrest did not go as smoothly. Warned that it was pending, Clark and Thomas held a brief news conference in front of the Mobile County Metro Jail, with Clark using the occasion to describe his client's travails as persecution based on racism.

Investigators with the district attorney's office interrupted the gathering, nudged Thomas toward the jailhouse door, then booked him on 57 counts.

Clark said he expects that any new indictments against his client would be incorporated into the pending case. Thomas' trial is set for Oct. 5.

Thomas, a one-time prosecutor who later rose quickly from a district judgeship to a seat on Mobile's circuit bench, was known for his vigorous and ceaseless community activism.

Early signs of Thomas' future troubles began to surface in 2006, when he overrode a fellow judge's decision ordering former school board member David Thomas, his cousin, to serve a week's sentence in Metro Jail for leaving the scene of a 2005 Mardi Gras accident.

Judge Thomas, without his colleague's knowledge, instead arranged for David Thomas to serve the sentence in the less-crowded Prichard Jail.

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Comments

budsforu says...

Herman Thomas, nor Obama, should have been elected for office where they have control of peoples lives.

<http://www.antichristidentity.com/The-Antichrist5.htm>.

Read USA today and listen to the uncensored Fox news.

Posted on 08/07/09 at 7:51AM

bamascoop says...

It's nice to see that the DA in Mobile is not a coward like our DA in Jefferson County was for so long. I guess we will see about Brandon Falls before long.

Mike Tyson should be the Attorney General in this state instead of Boy King!

Posted on 08/07/09 at 8:05AM

kojak67 says...

bamaascoop! I agree!! MAYBE HE WILL RUN!! WISHFUL THINKING I GUESS

Posted on 08/07/09 at 8:18AM

academe99 says...

Unlike the hypocrites on this site, I believe in the presumption of innocence. I also understand the politics of law and how it is often used as a weapon to neutralize certain groups of people. I also understand the "color of justice." Interesting enough, when one considers the fact that the accusers of Judge Thomas were not believable enough to acquit them of their charges, but are suddenly credible enough to charge a contributor to the community who was a Judge. The DA's office has fooled noone.

Posted on 08/07/09 at 9:42AM

academe99 says...

Unlike the hypocrites on this site, I believe in the presumption of innocence that the US Constitution grants to every citizen. However, I also understand the politics of the law, where it is oftentimes used as a weapon of mass destruction to neutralize certain groups of people. I also understand that the law is often changed to benefit the power structure and to ensnare citizens that the power base has vendettas against. Interesting enough, the accusers of Judge Thomas did not have the credibility to avoid jail time, but they are suddenly credible when the DA's office wants to indict a contributor to our community. I am not fooled by the charges. Good luck proving them.

Posted on 08/07/09 at 9:52AM

dogbynight says...

academe sounds like you would like to paddle a couple yourself! also he is charged with real crimes not with being black! find something else to hide behind that race stuff is getting old!!!!!!!!!!

Posted on 08/07/09 at 10:20AM

Strawberrie1 says...

I believe that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. The charges are outrageous. Inmates should not have to submit to anyone's personal gratification. Stick with the constitution. I do believe that the prosecution is stacking the deck against Mr. Thomas. If the trial is scheduled for October, the new indictments give the prosecutor an unfair advantage. I am not saying that the initial indictments should not go forward. I am saying that the Prosecutor has unlimited resources, the majority of defendants have limited resources. Even Mr. Thomas has more resources than most defendants, he's not a Bill Gates. The trial will have to be pushed back. The tax payers will pay for these delays. If convicted Mr. Thomas, might have legal grounds later with the way that the evidence is being trickled down. It's obvious that each side is playing a game. Justice is a chess match, not a game. Let's put all of the evidence out there so that the defendant won't be oversaturated at the last minute. We don't need to spend unnecessary tax dollars. No wonder the conviction rate is so high in Mobile. I hope that the prosecution carefully goes over all the cases that Mr. Thomas convened over. If the allegations are

true, many inmates were sentences unfairly. I will be watching and learning. I would love to sit on this jury. I can be fair.

Posted on 08/07/09 at 2:22PM

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