

July 31, 2013

Missoulian Newspaper  
500 South Higgins  
P.O. Box 8029  
Missoula, Montana 59807

Dear Editor and Ms. Haake,

I am responding to the article in today's paper pertaining to me and because of all of the inaccuracies and false facts circulated, after 21 months I have decided to break my past policy of silence regarding the media.

Thorin Geist is a liar! Soon after arriving in Ravalli County I had an opportunity to meet with my assigned Public Defender, Ron Piper. Prosecutor Geist had already presented a proposed plea offer of four years with one year suspended in the Montana Department of Corrections. When my public defender informed Mr. Geist that he has a potential problem charging me in the first place due to Montana's Double Jeopardy statute, the true colors of an inferior County Attorney came through with the ignorant response of "*well that's a dumb law.*" Mr. Geist continued to pursue my prosecution anyway.

When it became clear and apparent that this malicious attack and prosecution would continue, I chose to hire attorney Charlie Umhey to deal with this annoyance with the County Prosecutor's Office. Through this 82 day ordeal, it became crystal clear that this attack was "unofficially initiated" by Tara Elliot in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Missoula. Prosecutor Geist later made the comment that he was "*waiting for evidence from his Federal colleagues in Missoula*" before he could move forward in discussions with my representatives.

If Thorin Geist were in fact being truthful in his statement that I read today (7/31/13) in the Missoulian why were these alleged charges not dropped until July 22, some 75 days after I was brought to Ravalli County for further prosecution? My charges were never "dropped at the prosecutor's request," they were only dismissed after Charlie Umhey filed his bullet proof motion for formal dismissal of the charges on July 9, 2013. At that point, it was apparent to Mr. Geist that he had no possible chance of obtaining a conviction in this matter. Did he finally file a response brief to our original motion in agreement to dismiss the charges with prejudice? Mr. Geist also commented that his initial reason for charging me in the first place, eight days after I had been sentenced Federally and 544 days after the alleged offense had even occurred was because he "was not happy with the Federal sentence" I received.

These trumped up charges were nothing more than Thorin Geist's attempt at getting his pound of flesh, ie; another conviction under his belt. Mr. Geist's attempt failed. Mr. "dumb law" thank you for wasting the money of the Ravalli County Tax payers by incarcerating me down here for 82 days. In this time I was able to see my son and loved ones on several occasions that otherwise would not have been afforded me had I been taken out of Montana immediately following my May 1 sentencing (although I had to deal

with a HIPPA privacy violation and a racially charged comment from a correctional officer (while in the jail) I was still able to meet many good men and make new friends. Just like Tara Elliot you, Thorin Geist have managed to land yourself in the club of malicious and vindictive prosecutors who wear egg on their faces for bringing egregious, maliciously motivated trumped up charges against me and with the intent to paint me as some hardened criminal so you can feel justified in your actions. It is no secret that I owned and operated a medical marijuana business which unlike my former business partner, confidential informant to the FBI and rat Brent Russum, I have taken full responsibility for. I chose to exercise my right to a trial because I wanted to stand up for the 62% of Montanans who voted for Medical Marijuana to be legal in our state. I did not create or write the rules of Medical Marijuana, but me, a single individual was left alone without protection from the cities of Missoula or Hamilton who both issued business licenses for both of my dispensaries or the state of Montana who issued me 500 plus Medical Marijuana Patient Cards, also known as mini licenses to distribute marijuana to consenting, doctor approved adults. It was just me, left standing toe-to-toe with our mighty Federal Government. I have done it once and it will be necessary for me to continue to do so since Tara Elliot has elected to appeal my fair 24 month sentence imposed by the Honorable Judge Christenson asking for a more severe 60 month sentence. This Medical Marijuana issue is a State vs. Federal Government Issue and it seems crazy to believe that Ms. Elliot has continued her vindictive attack and in doing so disrespect Judge Christenson's ruling by appealing this clear case that is a Medical Marijuana issue. I used to think that if anyone was able to relate to the conflict of State vs. Federal issues that it would be someone like Ms. Elliot, considering the current hot topic of same sex marriage that is sweeping the nation.

At the end of the day, god does not and will not reward ugly, vindictive behavior. Just as Thorin Geist's attempt to hurt me through prosecution failed Ms. Elliot's attempt at appealing my more than fair sentence will also fail.

Tax payers can be the judge of the amount of money Ms. Elliot continues to waste on this misguided effort, added to the amount of money it will cost to incarcerate me (\$34,000.00 annually), plus the three million dollars the government spent to investigate a "drug trafficking organization" that had an owner (me) licensed by the city, state and even my fingerprints submitted to the FBI with "drug houses" (our stores) with big signs in front and nothing to hide advertising. Everything we did was out in the open. We were not hard to find but that is what you get when you have bored overzealous cops who are just itching to put on their gear and raid a business store front that had been operating in the open for two years. News Flash: the 30, 000 plus medical marijuana card holders that were once registered with the state did not all of the sudden stop using marijuana, you've just pushed them back onto the streets with absolutely no regulation. I have a recommendation for you-look up the drug METH and deal with a real problem that is not recognized as "LEGAL" in 18 states and counting across our country the way marijuana has become legal.

To the 12 jurors who sat and deliberated my case, thank you for solidifying to the nation that the Federal Government does not have to respect our states rights at all. I wonder how you will feel when the feds take away peoples gun rights and raise your taxes to fund the next war or conflict that keeps us losing American lives with nothing to show for it. Open your eyes people.

"Former UM Quarterback" and Self banished ex-Montanian  
Jason Washington