

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE)

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBIN G. TROUTMAN

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, ROBIN G. TROUTMAN, who upon being duly sworn deposes and states as follows:

1. I have been the wife of Gene Troutman since November 28, 1981. We currently reside at 18 Heather Way, Greenville, South Carolina 29605. I am providing this Affidavit to be included in my husband's Amended Grievance.

2. I recall discussing with my husband the idea of applying for the job of Executive Secretary to the Clemson University Board of Trustees when the job became available early in 2005. I was in favor of him applying because if he was selected it would mean he would be home more and would not be sent to remote job locations as had been the case throughout our married life.

3. Because of his extraordinary business skills, organizational skills and experience, I was confident that my husband would be a leading candidate for the position even though over 150 people ultimately applied for the position.

4. After my husband was offered and accepted the position, we bought a condominium at University Ridge in Clemson, where he would spend Monday through Thursday evenings. He lived there with our son, Peter, who is a student at Clemson University. We were all happy that my husband's new job would give him the opportunity to spend more time with our son.

5. It is hard to describe how hard my husband worked in his new job as Executive Secretary. I know from telephone conversations I placed to him he was routinely in the office and on the job by 7:30 A.M. each day. He frequently worked well into the evening, some times as late as 10:00 P.M.

6. When my husband came home for the weekend on Friday evening, he always brought work with him. He worked many hours on weekends and holidays. To the best of my knowledge, he took no vacation time other than a few days at Christmas when the entire University campus would shut down.

7. In order to assist him with his job, and because he did not have enough help, I frequently did chores and ran errands to assist him. For example, I routinely shopped at various grocery stores, liquor stores and other specialty stores to obtain the requested items for stocking the Trustee's box at Clemson Memorial Stadium. I routinely delivered those items, as required, between 12:00 Noon and 3:00 P.M. on Friday before a game day. I also took things to Room 430 of the Hospitality Suite at the James F. Martin Inn, where the Trustees socialize when they are in town.

8. Gene and I enjoyed getting to know the members of the Administrative Council, faculty, staff, and retired Clemson Presidents and faculty; the whole Clemson Community. Gene had opportunities to meet a great number of students attending Student Senate meetings. He was invited to become a member of the Blue Key Honor Society. Gene loved to report how he thought so much of the students he met and their endeavors.

9. I became a member of the Clemson University Women's Club. I joined the Clemson University Women's Club Book Club. This was an especially good way to meet Clemson women. I was glad that I would be able to attend more meetings with our daughter off to college this year.

10. Gene was available to each of the Trustees at all times to support their requests and accommodate their needs. I would see him receive calls and although he was in the middle of something else, he would see first that the Trustees' need was met. He was polite, accommodating and from his tone, I felt that the Trustees would surely feel that they would never need to hesitate to call on Gene with their needs. He was happy to help and I could see that he did help.

11. Football season is a time when the Trustees have many requests for tickets and special accommodations. On home game weekends, Gene would be totally consumed by preparing for the arrival of the Trustees, their family, and friends. Gene made all of the preparations for the Box and for the hospitality suite at the Martin Inn. Gene took special care to learn the favorite foods and drinks of the Trustees and their wives to be sure the bar was stocked with their individual favorites. Home games were very busy. When tastes changed or they ran out of a beverage, Gene would make special runs to the store to fix any problem. He worked with the Martin Inn to be sure everything ran smoothly. In the Stadium Box, Gene would remember family members and treat them with a smile, kind words and respect. He liked and respected the Trustees. Their families were special to him. Friends of Trustees were treated as he would treat his own guests.

12. Along with my husband, I attended funerals, special events, Administrative Council events, graduation exercises and other University-related functions. My husband was very conscientious about attending all these events as he considered it to be a way of expressing his loyalty to the Trustees and to the University. My husband routinely attended meetings during the evenings as well. For example, he would routinely attend student senate meetings. I accompanied my husband at summer quarterly meetings of the Trustees each year.

13. Gene learned of President Barker's watercolors and that he liked to give them as gifts. Gene encouraged the President to reproduce them in a high-quality, digital reproduction process called giclee. Gene helped Jim find where he could get this done. Gene and I helped Jim and Marcia Barker with getting the originals and proofs back and forth to Greenville to have his originals reproduced and also helped them with some framing. We put a lot of time into these efforts and were happy to have a way to get to know Jim and Marcia better.

14. Gene felt really good about his job and looked forward to completing the process to staff more help. Prior to June 2007, Gene and Jeanette Braine-Sperry were doing it all and it was too much for two people. He recently hired Drew Land as his assistant mid-June 2007.

15. Our daughter, Jacqueline, and I accompanied Gene to Charleston for the summer quarterly of 2007. The plan was that Jacqueline and I would spend the time together in Charleston and be there for Gene for a day at the end of the retreat for Gene to relax at the beach after what would be an intense four to five days of work.

16. On Wednesday, July 11, 2007, Gene and I were in Clemson in his office gathering up some last minute things before departing for Charleston. He composed a memo about the new appointment of Alan Godfrey and gave it to Drew Land to type and distribute to all the Trustees and the administration. He had just learned that this news would soon be in the

newspaper and felt he needed to get the information to the Trustees before it was in the paper. We then drove to Greenville to pack more things for the trip. As we were about to leave for Charleston from Greenville, Gene received a call from Bill Hendrix. I walked into the room after the call was already in progress and quickly could see that Mr. Hendrix was not happy with something about the announcement of the position of Executive Director of Fiscal Control/Policy Compliance. Bill told Gene he was embarrassed.

17. As we drove to Charleston on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, Gene called Tom McTeer about another matter and spoke to him about Bill Hendrix, explaining what happened and that Bill was upset. From Gene's side of the conversation, I thought all would be fine. Gene said after the call that Tom McTeer told him that he (Gene) was "just doing his job" and "don't worry about Bill being embarrassed."

18. On Thursday night, July 12, 2007, Gene came into the room at the Planters Inn and asked for Jacqueline's and my help. He was writing a memo to Bill Hendrix. My husband utilized his personal computer in our room to prepare at least two memoranda to the Chairman of the Board in an effort to resolve any perceived problems. As is typical, my husband did his best to explain his handling of that matter as well as every other matter I have ever known him to address while he served as the Executive Secretary. Gene said that Joe Swann and Smyth McKissick were angry about the new position that Gene put in place. Gene thought that if he wrote a memo to Bill Hendrix he could give him the information to help him understand what happened so he could better communicate with Mr. Swann and Mr. McKissick. He knew he needed to get him to understand if he did not already and it would be hard to find him undistracted. After the memo was typed, he delivered it to Bill's room under the door.

19. On Friday, July 13, 2007, I did not see Gene during the day. I did see him after his meetings were finished. He told me that during the morning meeting, President Barker denied knowing about the new audit position. Gene told me that this was not true.

20. On the evening of July 13, 2007, I was invited to attend the Legislative reception at the Hunley Exhibit. At about 6:30 P.M., we met the Trustees and the administration in the Peninsula Grill as we waited for a bus to take us to the Hunley Exhibit. I stood with Gene as he spoke with Allen Wood. Gene asked Allen to help him with Bill Hendrix since Bill and Allen are good friends.

21. After this conversation, Gene spoke to Lawrence Gressette. Lawrence was his usual self, but when Gene brought up the subject of the audit position, Lawrence abruptly turned and walked off. During the reception, Gene and I were separated at times and Gene was upset because he was being treated rudely by a couple of the Trustees.

22. On Saturday, July 14, 2007, Jacqueline and I helped Gene again with another memo to Bill Hendrix. He wanted to explain again that the new position was needed and why. He wanted to provide logical thinking to Bill to help him combat what appeared to be opposition by others. Gene put his memo to Bill Hendrix under the door to his room.

23. On Sunday morning, July 15, 2007, Gene dressed and went down to what would be the President's evaluation by the Trustees and then Gene's evaluation by the Trustees. When Gene came back to the room, he was devastated. He could not believe that Bill told him he didn't think Gene's job was going to work out because Gene was doing too much. Gene said he asked for a chance to speak before all of the Trustees. He said he told Bill he would do whatever the job was that they wanted him to do and asked them to give him a second chance. Gene reported to me that they said nothing and asked no questions.

24. Later that afternoon in my company, Gene called Alan Godfrey and told him about what had just happened with Bill Hendrix and the Trustees. Gene reported to me that Alan felt terrible about it. Gene called Brett Dalton. Gene reported to me that Brett told him that J.J. Britton had come up to Brett and Alan Godfrey and asked them how they felt about the new audit position working out and that they told J.J. that they felt good about it. Brett told Gene that J.J. seemed assured. Gene called Dori Helms. Gene reported to me that Dori Helms suggested that everything would surely be okay and the Clemson family did not just get rid of people like that and that Gene was just doing more than anyone ever had. She also suggested that Gene should make an appointment with President Barker to get his help.

25. On Monday morning, July 16, 2007, Gene called Jeanette Braine-Sperry, his Assistant. She was at the office in Clemson. He asked her to make an appointment with Jim Barker at his convenience in the next few days. We packed for home. Our bags were ready to go to the lobby. Gene's phone rang. It was Bill Hendrix. I heard Gene speak to him. Gene said, "How can you do this? If I am not doing the job you want, tell me what you do want." What about telling me what you don't want and give me time to change what I am doing. Tell me off. Something. Gene was very calm throughout the conversation and he asked for a second chance. Bill, according to Gene, said "I couldn't sleep last night...I decided just to go ahead, not wait and ask you to resign." Gene explained to me all of the details that Bill Hendrix had offered for his resignation.

26. After lunch on July 16, 2007, Gene called Alan Godfrey. After the call, Gene reported to me what was said. Gene told Alan what had just happened to him. Alan told Gene that Sandy McKinney called him earlier and told him Jim Barker and Bill Hendrix were going to call him. When they did call Alan together, they told him that he was not to report to his new

audit job; he would work on land projects. Gene said Bill Hendrix told Alan "We do not need a watchdog on the administration."

27. Gene and I were devastated.

28. I know of nothing my husband did or failed to do which would warrant his termination. I believe the Clemson Trustees need him very much.

FURTHER, YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.


ROBIN G. TROUTMAN

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me

this 29th day of August, 2007

 (L.S.)
NOTARY PUBLIC for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 1/28/14