

Burnt Orange, Pt. II

JUDGE DISMISSES CLEMSON'S ATTEMPTS TO SQUASH LAWSUIT

By [fitsnews](#) • on March 19, 2008



FITSNews – March 19, 2008 – Senior U.S. District Court Judge [Matthew J. Perry](#) today rejected Clemson University's attempt to dismiss a lawsuit alleging that the school [hid over \\$140 million from lawmakers](#) at the same time it was nearly tripling tuition costs on parents. Clemson was [seeking to dismiss the suit](#) on the grounds that the [shocking allegations](#) of fiscal mismanagement raised by a former employee were not "protected speech."

The news is a tremendous setback for Clemson spokesman ... err ... House Speaker [Bobby Harrell](#), who went out on a major limb for the University last week when he emphatically dismissed the allegations.

"This is a fired employee who is saying these things because he is angry about losing his job," Harrell told the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* last Friday. "Under these kinds of circumstances, I don't put much credence into something like this."

Looks like the U.S. District Court doesn't agree with your assessment, Mr. Speaker. To say nothing of the thousands of South Carolina parents whose in-state tuition costs soared from \$3,590 to \$9,900 a year from 2000-2007 while the school was hiding a secret reserve fund of \$137 million from the legislature.

UPDATE: The *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* is [reporting](#) that Perry rejected Clemson's bid to have the lawsuit moved to either Greenville or Anderson (i.e. their back yard).

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