

- In 2002, I was appointed by Jakie Knotts as the Oak Grove Magistrate for Lexington County.
- In August or early September 2003, Jakie Knotts and Sheriff James Metts of Lexington County approached me and stated that they wanted to have a case tested to see if it would hold up legally. Such cases are called Test Cases. This "Test Case" that Jakie and the Sheriff wanted me to hear was a video poker case (**State vs. Charles E. Bishop**). I was told by Jakie that the owner of the video poker machine would be represented by attorney Jake Moore's law firm.

On September 12, 2003, I heard this "Test Case" at the Oak Grove Magistrate's Office in which, at the time, was Sergeant David Arnold with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department prosecuting the case. After hearing the case, I ruled that I was not satisfied that the video machine, which was called South Carolina Fruit Holder, was a violation of seizure & destruction laws or a violation to posses this machine. This decision was made on the testimony giving in the case, which Sergeant David Arnold asked no questions and presented a case where I was left with no other choice but to rule in favor of the machine.

Shortly after I made this ruling, several individuals from the Video Poker Industry came to my office to obtain copies of the order I signed in this case preventing law enforcement from seizing these machines.

On September 30, 2003, I heard a motion that was filed by Attorney Havird Jones, Jr. from the S.C. Attorney General's Office on S.L.E.D's behalf for me to reconsider my ruling. On October 3, 2003, I ruled in favor of the Attorney General's Motion to reconsider and that my order preventing law enforcement to not seize these S.C. Fruit Holder machines to be vacated. This decision was bases on numerous case laws and other judge's orders that had been submitted by Attorney Havird Jones Jr. with the S.C. Attorney General's Office. During this hearing and reading the case laws and other judge's orders that related to video poker machines, it became very obvious that this was in no way a "Test Case" as Jakie and the Sheriff presented to me. This was not new ground that had not traveled on before; in fact, this was already addressed two to three years prior to me hearing this type of case.

After ruling in favor of the Attorney General's motion, Jakie became very upset and stated I should have let the Attorney General appeal the case. Sheriff Metts at one point requested that I meet with him, a Gregg Flynn and someone else from the video poker Industry in which I never did.

Note: In the summer of 2005, Danny Frazier told Jakie that the F.B.I. was asking him questions about Jakie's involvement with the video poker case that I hear in 2003. Jakie then met with me and Danny for lunch. After lunch, Jakie ask me to ride with him that he would take me back to my office. During this ride, Jakie asked me if the F.B.I. had contacted me and I told him no that they had not. However, this was not true, I had spoken to F.B.I. Agent Ron Grossi but I was not going to let Jakie know that I had in order to protect the F.B.I.'s investigation and myself from Jakie's ways of getting even with people. Once we got back to my office, Jakie told me what I thought of him being offered a job that paid \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 a year as a Director of a security company. I told him that sounded great and then he left. I later found out that Jakie had called F.B.I. Agent Grossi and confronted him about his investigation. To my knowledge after that, the investigation was dropped. I also later found out that the Director of the security company that offered Jakie a job was called Startech Security Corporation and according to Jakie's biography on the State of South Carolina's Legislative website, he is listed as the Director for the Southern Region for Startech Security. I later found out that Weldon Waites and his wife owned the company and that the U.S. Congress held hearings on this company in the way that this corporation had spent federal money on things like buying a \$500,000.00 beach condo in South Carolina and making payments on his Yacht. In addition Weldon Waites has been convicted of money laundering and bank fraud. Jakie tailgates with Weldon Waites at the Carolina Football games.

- In October or November of 2003, I was asked by Danny Frazier and Jakie Knotts to ride off with them to go to a party somewhere around Orangeburg South Carolina. Once we got close, Jakie had to make a call on cell phone to someone that I did not know so he could get complete directions to where we were to go. After he made the phone call, he told me and Danny that someone was coming to meet us and escort us to this party. After waiting a few minutes, we were met by an unmarked law enforcement vehicle, with what agency or officer met us I do not know, but he then escorted us down a secluded road that led to a white cabin type house that had donkeys in a field around this cabin. We then proceeded to walk in the cabin and then I was being introduced to many people. These people consisted of former Sheriff of Orangeburg, his brother, who was a Chief of Police, and others to include other law enforcement. I saw Rick McCloud, a retired S.L.E.D agent who was then working for Sheriff James Metts as one of his internal affairs investigators, who is a mutual friend of mine that Danny and Jakie also knew. There were two ladies at this party. Rick McCloud then told me that they were prostitutes and that he brought them to the party for anyone who wanted to enjoy themselves. When I asked Rick McCloud how did he know them, he said that he met them when working a case at S.L.E.D.

and that they remained friends ever since. Rick then went around the room and explained to the men that if they decided to enjoy the ladies company to just pay the ladies after they were done. Once this was done, Jakie then took one of the prostitutes outside to Danny Frazier's truck. After some time went by, Jakie returned back to the cabin completely naked with the female walking behind him. Then there were others that went outside with these prostitutes. Danny then took the prostitute that Jakie was with and went out to his truck. I remember that Rick McCloud had become worried about one of the prostitutes that was outside in a Ford Station wagon with an intoxicated man and asked me to go check on her for him. I did only to find the prostitute performing oral sex on this man in the car. I asked if everyone was ok, and both stated they were and then I went back in and informed Rick. After about spending two hours at this party, Jakie told me if we were done, for us to head back home. I remember us having to wait on Danny because he was in the bathroom in the cabin with the same prostitute that he was with earlier. Once we were back in the truck, I asked Danny Frazier what was he doing in the bathroom with the prostitute and he said that he was getting a blowjob from her. After discussing what happen on our way back home, Jakie found out how much Danny paid the prostitute and told him that he paid too much that he only gave her \$40.00 for sex.

Note: I found out much later, sometime in 2005, from Darren Rodgers and Danny Frazier that Jakie and them both were at the Farmers Market one night setting up for tailgating party for a Carolina Football game and that a female named Angel that worked at the Southern Gentlemen's Club in Lexington County was with them and all were drinking alcohol. During that time, each of them had sex with this female in one of the motor homes that was parked there. I remember that Darren Rodgers and Danny Frazier told me that they nick named Jakie Knotts "the bully on the playground" because during sex with this female, neither Danny nor Darren could get Jakie to stop so they could get more turns with her. There were times when I would be with Jakie, Danny, and Darren together and when the topic of sex came up, Danny and Darren would remind Jakie of being "the bully on the playground" and Jakie would just smile & laugh.

- In December 2003, Jakie had me meet with him and Judge Mark Westbrook in the judge's chambers. As I entered Judge Westbrook's office, I saw that Jakie along with Judge Brian Jeffcoat and Judge Westbrook were in his office. They began to tell me that this meeting was to be discreet and that no one could find out about this meeting. Judge Westbrook told me that he and Jakie had spoke to Chief Justice Jean Toal and that they were having me appointed to Chief Magistrate and Brian Jeffcoat to Associate Chief Magistrate.
- On January 1, 2004, I was appointed to Chief Magistrate and Brian Jeffcoat was appointed to Associate Chief Magistrate like they said I would be.

In the summer of 2004, Brian Jeffcoat approached me about hiring Jakie's daughter, Tara, for a supervisor's position in the Magistrate's system. After I spoke to Jakie about this, he wanted his daughter looked after, but the problem I had is she is very good friends with Brian Jeffcoat and

never had worked in the Magistrate's system before. I then promoted my clerk, JoLynn Hinz, to be the Chief Court Administrator and went to County Council to create a position for Jakie's daughter that paid \$32,000.00 to \$36,000.00 a year. Talking to Jakie about his daughter's salary, I understood that was about a \$10,000.00 increase from her salary from working at the Lexington County Solicitor's office, but he said to get the salary as high as I could for her.

After hiring Jakie's daughter, I was very uncomfortable. Tara began complaining to Jakie and Brian Jeffcoat about how things were run at that Magistrate's office and about JoLynn Hinz. Jakie had several talks with me demanding that I either demote JoLynn Hinz or fire her. I refused to do either due to JoLynn performing her job duties as Chief Court Administrator above my expectations. Jakie's daughter, Tara, worked for about a month and then resigned to go back to the Lexington County Solicitor's office doing what she did when she left to take the position of Special Projects Coordinator with the Magistrate's Office. I was told that Tara got a \$10,000.00 raise when she returned back to the solicitor's office. Jakie was so relentless about having JoLynn demoted or fired, I received a call to meet with Chief Justice Jean Toal at her chambers in December 2004. She discussed with me that I had been in this long enough to know how politics work and that she had gotten many complaints about my leadership and about my Chief Court Administrator, JoLynn Hinz. She also told me that she knows how Jakie can be and that she has known him since he was an officer in the City of Columbia. She advised me that she would let me know what she was going to do about me continuing to be the Chief Magistrate for Lexington County.

About a week later, I got a call on my cell phone from Jakie stating that Chief Justice Toal was not going to reappoint me as the Chief Magistrate.

- On March 26, 2007, I had an Investigator from DHEC come to my office and presented me with a search warrant affidavit to search the property of 210 Possum College Road in Swansea area of Lexington County. That investigator was Christopher Phillips who is now suing DHEC for stopping him from investigating this case and demoting him all because of at least one State Senator demanded him to be off the case if not fired. This State Senator is Jakie Knotts. After I signed the search warrant and investigator Christopher Phillips was at 210 Possum Road conducting the search of the property, I received a call from attorney Jake Moore questioning the way the search was being conducted. Attorney Jake Moore was representing the people who owned the property. After I was advised that large excavators were digging up the property, I asked attorney Jake Moore to put Investigator Christopher Phillips on the phone. I informed the investigator of the concerns of attorney Jake Moore and that he had requested a hearing on how the search was being conducted. I advised Investigator Phillips to have DHEC secure the scene by having additional agents stay on the property and that I would have him and attorney Jake Moore come straight to my office so I can hear any concerns about the way the search was being conducted and if it was reasonable. Investigator Phillips got upset with me and began to question me about "in his whole law enforcement career he has never seen this done before." I

explained to him to complete his search and I would take up motions at a later time. Jakie Knotts called me that afternoon and told me that I should have recalled that search warrant and that I should have never signed it to begin with. I explained to Jakie that there was probable cause to issue the search warrant and I stand behind it. He then demanded that I do something to Investigator Phillips for the way he spoke to me. I told Jakie that I would handle it directly with the investigator. Jakie then told me that he was going to take care of Investigator Phillips and that when he got done with Investigator Phillips he was going to be fired.

The next morning, I received a call on my cell phone from Earl Hunter with DHEC. He stated that Senator Jakie Knotts had called him and requested for him to call me about his agent. I explained to Mr. Hunter that yes I was upset at how Investigator Phillips spoke to me, but I have met with him and we discussed it and I completely understand why Investigator Phillips reacted the way he did and as far as I am concerned that it is over and respect Investigator Phillips' position and now that we had a chance to talk about what happen while he was conducting his search, he understood he should have took a little time out to see what I was attempting to accomplish. While I was talking to Investigator Phillips at my office, he advised me that attorney Jake Moore told him the day he was conducting the search of the property that he knew me and that he was going to have this warrant recalled and then he became upset when I asked him to come to my office for a hearing.

Note: After Learning that Investigator Phillips was suing DHEC and knowing what I know about how directly involved Jakie was with this case, and the fact that Jakie's friend and attorney Jake Moore was representing the defendants, I have to ask if Jakie Knotts Obstructed Justice in this criminal investigation case?

- The relationship that Jakie & I had continued to breakdown as time passed. In late 2006, Danny Frazier, who was at the time a very good friend of mine and who had already lost a Lexington County Council election, made it known that he was interested in running against Jakie for the Senate seat in 2008. Danny Frazier blamed Jakie for his loss to Debbie Summers in that race and strongly felt that Jakie played both sides and failed to openly support him in that election when he for so long openly supported him in his elections. This created more problems for me because people associated me with Danny Frazier & Jakie Knotts which put me in the middle of their war between each other when I had expressed to them that I just wanted to do my job and be left out of their battle.

In April of 2007, all the Lexington County Magistrate's were up for reappointment by the senators. When April came, we were all held in what they call "hold over status", which means the senators basically hold your job over your head. I felt that this was done by Jakie to punish me for not demoting or firing my clerk JoLynn Hinz when he told me to & for being Danny Frazier's friend.

About August 2007, Danny Frazier decided not to run against Jakie for the senate because according to Danny, they made up and made a deal with one another. When I asked Danny Frazier what this deal consisted of, he would only tell me that part of that deal, I was to be reappointed as magistrate. This confirmed to me that Jakie put me in "hold over status" as a form of punishment.

- On February 6 2008, I was placed on interim suspension by the S.C. Supreme Court after being charged with Petti Larceny. My wife and a friend were also charged. My wife's sister accused us of taking a yard statute from her house that my wife's grandfather painted. Charges were dismissed by a special prosecutor in July 2008. I was left on interim suspension and the complaints that were filed with the Office of Disciplinary Council, which is supervised by Chief Justice Toal, have not been investigated to this date.
- In early August 2008, I received information from my clerk, Kellie Hoffman, that Jakie Knotts spoke to Judge Morgan by phone right before this judge was to hear a case that had been sent to my office by another judge to be reconsidered. This case was a video poker case and that attorney Jake Moore was representing the defendant. Kellie Hoffman told me that it seemed suspicious because after the phone call ended, Judge Morgan heard the case and ruled in favor of the video poker machine and that after the hearing, Judge Morgan sat down with her and explained why he ruled that way. Knowing what Jakie and Sheriff Metts tried to do in the 2003 case involving the S.C. Fruit Holder machine, I asked for a copy of that tape. **(See my statement to the Supreme Court dated September 3, 2003)**. However, being that Jakie had displayed his ability to have connections with Chief Justice Toal and remembering what she told me in 2004 about her knowing how Jakie was and that she knew him since he was an officer in the City of Columbia, I was left with presenting my reason for requesting the tape of that hearing was to see if Judge Morgan violated any rules that must cause me as a judge to report to Judicial Conduct. **(See statements from Jolynn Hinz and Kellie Hoffman from Supreme Court dated September 26, 2008)**.
- On October 21, 2008, I appeared before the S.C. Supreme Court for a motion made by the Office of Disciplinary and supervised by Chief Justice Toal for violating the February 6, 2008 interim suspension order. During this hearing, Chief Justice Toal was very upset and verbally forceful toward my attorney. When the issue was brought up about me asking my clerk for a copy of the video poker case that Judge Morgan heard, she wanted to know why if I thought that Jakie Knotts had done something wrong, why did I not report it or why did my Clerk not report it. My attorney advised her that I did not know if there was anything to report because I was not giving a copy of the tape of that video poker case. When I got to speak on my behalf, Chief Justice Toal nor any of the other Justices asked me any direct questions about Jakie or about the video poker case because in my opinion, Chief Justice Toal did not want me answering any questions about any allegations that would implement Jakie Knotts in any kind of wrong doings. My question now is with what the S.C. Supreme Court was advised about Jakie making a call to a magistrate

that he appoints, who is in hold over status by Jakie, and this judge is relying on this Senator to reappoint him in January 2009, why has the Supreme Court not reported Jakie Knotts to be investigated for possible unlawful conduct?

According to Jakie, he told after he was informed that I tried to get a copy of the trial tape, that he called to tell Judge Morgan to inform attorney Jake Moore he would not be able to meet him at my office because he had to go to another meeting. I strongly believe that if Judge Morgan was interviewed correctly, he would be honest and confirm Clerk Kellie Hoffman's story and my feelings of why Jakie truly made that phone call to Judge Morgan.

- On November 7, 2008, I received an order from the Supreme Court stating that I was found in criminal contempt for violating the February 6, 2008 court order that place me on interim suspension, but that sentencing will be withheld in abeyance until further order of the S.C. Supreme Court. **(See Court Order from S.C. Supreme Court dated November 6, 2008).**

My concern with coming forward with this information is that I have seen how Jakie works to destroy people's lives and how he uses others to do it. His connection with Chief Justice Toal is just one example. I have seen Jakie make so many complaints on one State Trooper named (Snead?), wanting him to be fired or at the least moved out of Lexington County because he wrote Danny Frazier a speeding ticket that once it was done, it was made obvious to me that he just used Danny Frazier's situation as a cover to get his in law, Charles "Johnny" Dowey, who owns Carolina Wrecking, Inc. DUI charge dismissed that this trooper charged him with. My career as a Magistrate is over, however, Sheriff Lott is giving me a fresh start as a Deputy with his department and I can't afford for that chance or the ability to have a career in law enforcement to be completely taking away from me due to Jakie's malice deeds and his ability to have others do his dirty work for him.

- On December 30, 2008, I went to Danny Frazier's house due to me having a very hard time getting him to answer my phone calls or to get him to return them. Back in December of 2007, Danny had asked me to open an account at Reed's Jewelry so he could buy a Rolex watch that was priced at around \$5,700.00. The reason that Danny asked me to do this was for two reasons. The first reason was that he was going through a divorce with Wendy Frazier and he did not want to apply for that type of credit in his name. The second reason was that the Rolex watch was on sale and was interest free for a year. Danny had promised me that he would have this watch paid off before the year was up. When the year came and after pleading and reminding Danny each month that he needed to have the watch paid off by December 2008 or the interest for the whole year would be added to the balance on the watch, he still failed to have it paid off. The balance on the watch in November of 2008 was around \$3,200.00 and after December of 2008, the balance of the watch with the whole year of interest added due to him failing to pay it off was around \$4,000.00. After meeting him at his house around 6:30 pm, I asked Danny to let's ride to the mall so he could pay off the watch.

While we were riding to the mall, Danny asked how things were going with me and then he advised that he was opening up a consulting company and that he was calling it Kingfish Consulting. I asked him what was he specializing in and he said "getting things done". This was suspicious to me because Danny has told me on many occasions in the past that Karson Corley gave him money for getting that Land field annexed into the town limits which allowed Karson to get a land field permit without Lexington County Council interfering. I remember Karson and Danny telling me that before Danny was elected to Town Council, Karson was paying Butch Spires who worked for the Town of Lexington and was once a Lexington County Councilman \$3000.00 a month to get approval for the land field from Lexington County Council. Butch Spires is now deceased but is a family member of Senator Jakie Knotts. In addition, I remember that sometime in 2006, Danny showing me a gold Blue Face Rolex watch and told me that Ben Kelly and Karson Corley had bought for him. I believe that Danny said that Rolex watch cost about \$8000.00 at that time.

Once we were at the mall, I asked Danny to pay off the balance of the watch on his credit card and that way I would not have to keep reminding him each month to pay it off and it affecting my credit. Danny said that he might be able to put it on his American Express card next month but at this time he did not think that he had that much credit on it. Danny then began writing a check for the watch payment to Reed's and told me that was being wrote out of his Kingfish Consulting Company's account.

Note: It is my opinion that this Kingfish Consulting Company that Danny is forming is nothing more than a cover to filter his kickbacks through to justify were he gets his money.

Miscellaneous things to be aware of:

- 1) Susan Duncan works in the Governor's Office. Her mother is Genie Duncan who is very involved with the Democratic Party and her best friend is Roxanne Wilson, the wife of Congressman Joe Wilson. Both Genie and Roxanne worked for Jakie to be re-elected.
- 2) Tim James and Neal Dolan who now works under S.L.E.D's Chief Reggie Lloyd have direct contact with Jakie Knotts. I have been on overnight hunting trips with Jakie Knotts and Danny Frazier were both Tim and Neal have been part of.
- 3) Jakie Knotts is very good friends with Lexington County Solicitor Donnie Myers. Jakie's daughter works in the Lexington County Solicitor's office.