

Ex-FBI Agent Fired By Pepperdine University For Advocating Amanda Knox Is Innocent

Steve Moore was an FBI Special Agent for 25 years. With the FBI he was a Supervisory Special Agent with the investigation and prosecution of violent crime, from murder to mass-murder and terrorism. He was the supervisor of the Al Qaeda Investigations squad, and ran the FBI's Los Angeles-based "Extra-Territorial Squad" responding to terrorism against the United States in Asia.

After his retirement from the FBI Pepperdine University in Malibu, California hired Moore as deputy director of public safety.

At the urging of his wife, in his spare time

Moore began looking into the case of Amanda Knox and her boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito. They were convicted in December 2009 of the November 2007 murder of Knox's roommate in Perugia Italy, where the two women were attending college. Knox, 23, is from Seattle, Washington and she attended the University of Washington before going to Italy to study. She was sentenced to 26 years in prison and Sollecito was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Moore became convinced that Knox and Sollecito are innocent. He then began advocating for them by writing online articles and speaking out publicly. The Injustice in Perugia website has Moore's articles online.

Although Moore only conducted activities on behalf of Knox and Sollecito when he was not working, Pepperdine reacted to the media attention Moore was garnering by firing him on September 28, 2010. Moore filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against



Steve Moore and his wife Michelle Moore
(Photo by Karen Quincy Loberg / Ventural County Star)

Pepperdine University on October 7, 2010.

Amanda Knox's appeal of her conviction began on November 24, 2010 in Perugia Italy. An appeal in Italy consists of a retrial that can include consideration of new evidence.

Sources:

Pepperdine fires man trying to free American Amanda Knox, *Ventura County Star*, October 8, 2010.

Judge Michael Heavey Admonished For Advocating Amanda Knox Is Innocent

Amanda Knox is a 23-year-old Seattle, Washington native whose prosecution for the November 2007 murder of her college roommate in Perugia, Italy is an international cause célèbre. She and her boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito were convicted of the murder in December 2009. Knox was sentenced to 26 years in prison and Sollecito was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

King County Superior Court Judge Michael J. Heavey's daughter went to school with Knox, and he became an outspoken advo-

cate for Knox's innocence. Among Judge Heavey's activities on behalf of Knox is he wrote three letters to officials in Italy that included a judge.

After an investigation, in April 2009 the Washington Commission on Judicial Conduct began proceedings based on alleged ethical wrongdoing by Judge Heavey for advocating Knox's innocence. After negotiations with Judge Heavey, on September 24, 2010, the Commission released its STIPULATION, AGREEMENT, AND ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT that found Heavey guilty of violating three Canons of judicial ethics -- Canons 1, 2(A), and 2(B). Those Canons relate to a judge lending the prestige of their office to advance the private interests of the judge or others, and that activity doesn't uphold the integri-

ty of the judiciary by failing to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, and by acting at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

Judge Heavey's punishment was an admonishment, which is the least severe punishment the Commission can impose.

Amanda Knox's appeal of her conviction began on November 24, 2010.

Sources:

In re The Honorable Michael Heavey, NO. 5975-F-145, WA CJC, September 24, 2010 (Stipulation, Agreement, and Order of Admonishment)
"As appeal approaches, Knox circus won't slow down," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 28, 2010.

Troy Anthony Davis "Is Not Innocent" Rules Federal Judge

U.S. District Court Judge William T. Moore Jr. denied Troy Anthony Davis' habeas corpus petition on August 24, 2010. In his 172-page ruling Judge Moore ruled "Mr. Davis is not innocent" of murdering "City of Savannah Police Officer Mark Allen MacPhail on August 19, 1989." Davis' habeas corpus petition was based on his claim of being actually innocent of the crime, and Judge Moore's determined that Davis had failed to prove by "clear and convincing

evidence" that he was in fact innocent.

Davis has garnered international publicity in his effort to overturn his capital conviction and death sentence, based on the recantation of seven of the nine eyewitnesses who testified at his trial. Judge Moore ruled in regard to the new evidence:

Ultimately, while Mr. Davis's new evidence casts some additional, minimal doubt on his conviction, it is largely smoke and mirrors. The vast majority of the evidence at trial remains intact, and the new evidence is largely not credible or lacking in probative value. After careful consideration, the Court finds that Mr. Davis has failed to make a showing

of actual innocence that would entitle him to habeas relief in federal court. Accordingly, the Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus is DENIED. (170-171)

Davis may be able to bypass the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals by directly appealing Judge Moore's ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Davis' sister Martina Correia has led the campaign to free her brother, and the official Troy Anthony Davis website is at, <http://www.troyanthonydavis.org>

Source:

In Re Troy Anthony Davis, No. CV409-130 (USDC SD GA, 8-24-2010).