



House of Representatives

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STANDING
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REAPPORTIONMENT
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
SPECIAL RULES

December 21, 2021

State Bar of Georgia
Office of the General Counsel
104 Marietta Street, N.W., Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

To Whom It May Concern:

A law license is a privilege and not a right. This letter is a formal complaint submitted to the State Bar of Georgia by Representative Viola Davis, Representative Rhonda Burnough, Representative Kim Schofield, and Representative Sandra G. Scott requesting the disbarment of **George E. Barnhill, District Attorney of the Waycross Judicial Circuit** for **alleged** violations of his public oath and the racial overtone directed to the Arbery family and their supportive friends and clergy. George Barnhill showed favor and affection to Greg McMichael and failed to treat Ahmaud Arbery and his family fairly and with dignity. We also request George E. Barnhill disbarment due to an alleged conflict-of-interest action that violated Ahmaud Arbery's constitutional rights prior to Barnhill stepping aside.

The trial of Ahmaud Arbery demonstrated a historic and profound abuse of the judicial process and disenfranchised Arbery's civil and constitutional rights. The District Attorneys involved in this case must be held accountable for violation of professional conduct and abuse of the judicial system to adhere to a conflict of interest to include:

1. The prosecutor, Jackie Johnson, a former district attorney in Glynn County, "knowingly and willfully" directed two Glynn County police officers not to arrest Travis McMichael, contrary to the laws of the state.
2. George McMichael, Travis McMichael, and William Bryan were convicted of the murder of Ahmaud Arbery after a national outrage from the public viewing the fatal encounter the three murderers with Ahmaud Arbery that was recorded on a cellphone video.
3. Jackie Johnson was indicted by a grand jury in Glynn County, Georgia on charges of "violation of oath of public officer" and "obstruction and hindering a law enforcement officer", according to the indictment released by the attorney general's office. She clearly exhibited actions unbecoming a public official demonstrating a conflict of interest in the case prior to her self-recusal. It is alleged that **Johnson** initially did not tell the attorney general that Johnson had a conflict of interest.
4. **George E. Barnhill** of the Waycross Judicial Circuit, the District Attorney who replaced Ms. Johnson is alleged to have demonstrated the same conflict of interest prior to stepping aside because his son worked for Ms. Johnson. Prior to taking this action, Barnhill advised that the McMichaels were protected by the

state's citizen's arrest law and self-defense statutes and should not be held responsible for the killing. It is alleged that **Barnhill** initially did not tell the attorney general that Barnhill had a conflict of interest.

We have concerns that this historic case exposed the deep seated racial disparities in the law relating to hate crime murder and the fair trials of African Americans. We request a review of the cases overseen by District Attorney Johnson and District Attorney Barnhill for discrimination and conflicts of interest. As elected officials, we want to ensure that Georgians receive fair and equitable treatment in the judicial system, and measures are in place to hold people accountable when Georgians' constitutional rights are violated.

For these reasons, we request the disbarment of **George Barnhill**. Please feel free to contact us for any further details that may help implement this request for the disbarment of George Barnhill. We ask that you contact me, Representative Sandra G. Scott, at 404-656-0314 or via email at sandra.scott@house.ga.gov.

With Kindest Regards,



Representative Sandra G. Scott

/s/ Rep. Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain)

/s/ Rep. Rhonda Burnough (D-Riverdale)

/s/ Rep. Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta)

/s/ Rep. Sandra Scott (D-Rex)

Attachment