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# Albuquerque's Criminal Justice "System"

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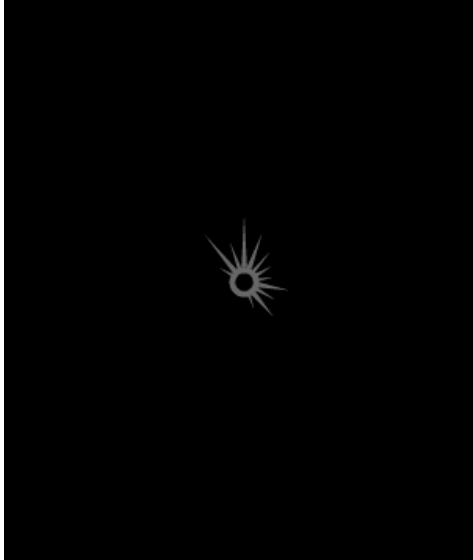
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Cedar Crest, NM

Feb 22, 2011

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"New Mexico is the Capital of Corruption of the United States. I've never seen anything like it in all my years at the FBI. Corruption is pervasive at every level of government". FBI Special Agent in Charge, FBI Field Office-Albuquerque, Thomas C. McClenaghan, January 2009, in an interview with KRQE Channel 13 News.

"When there is no integrity in a system, it is not a system". Clint Eastwood.

One of the most amazing things about Albuquerque is the cozy relationship between business, the news media, government and the so-called criminal justice system. Sure, the media routinely break news stories involving corrupt police officers, judges, etc. but then the story is not followed up, leaving citizens to guess what ever happened. Whatsmore, there is absolutely no consistency in the handling of cases by the District Attorney's Office, Courts, etc.

Take the case of APD Detective Timothy Chavez who raped a 14 year old girl he met on Live Links. Please don't confuse Detective Timothy Chavez, with APD Officer Levi Chavez, who is awaiting trial (someday) in Valencia County for the murder of his wife Tera; or with Officer Tank Guenther, who raped a 13 year old girl, a family member, and is awaiting trial (someday) in Albuquerque.

Detective Chavez's case was transferred to another venue because the District Attorney's Office said they "had a conflict of interest" in prosecuting the case. They did not elaborate, but apparently it is because they are afraid of repercussions from the Albuquerque Police. So they transferred the case to another jurisdiction hoping they would dispose of it somehow with the evidence the 2nd Judicial District Attorney's Office had passed on.

No such luck. Jury members apparently decided that since the girl

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had INITIALLY told Detective Timothy Chavez at Live Links that she was 18 years old, that is was OK for Detective Chavez to forcibly rape her in her own home though she told the detective she was 14 years old when she got there. You know how it is. Police Officers are under all that stress, and once the blood drains from the brain to the smaller head, well, boys will be boys. Needless to say, District Attorney Kari Brandenburg, who has a tradition of not prosecuting Police Officers very vigorously, did not refile the case after the trial ended up in a hung jury. Incredibly, though, because the 2nd Judicial District Attorney's Office has a history of re-filing even misdemeanor cases once dismissed, and even having Judges like Neil Candelaria and Richard Knowles ignore essential elements which must be present in order to convict someone lawfully. But I guess the rape of a 14-year-old girl isn't as serious as non-violent, non-prurient misdemeanors.

Well, then let's take a look at the case of Judge John William Brennan. The Judge was never prosecuted for Possession of Cocaine, Kidnapping, Battery on a Household Member, or for Driving Under the Influence, technically. The more serious charges were dismissed, or not prosecuted, or simply died on the vine. The DUI case was handled behind closed doors. The Judge pleaded guilty, but the sentence was deferred. Meaning, after completion of the decent interval of time, there would be no guilty sentence. The Judge was simply allowed to attend a drug rehab program. Never mind the kidnapping and assault and battery on a household member took place while the conditions of release were in place. That's OK. Jeez, you'd think the Judge was a badly tatoored boxer or something! Well, for some reason, there was no conflict of interest in handling Judge John William Brennan's case. Isn't that special? And why was that? Because even before the Judge had set one foot in Court, it had been decided he would be handled with kid gloves. And no one handles rogue cops or judges with the kind of silky kid gloves that DA Kari Brandenburg uses. No other Jurisdiction would have given the kind of sweetheart deal to Judge John William Brennan that locals did.

**Peralta de Peralta** *Albuquerque, NM* Feb 23, 2011 #2 | [Judge it!](#) | [Report Abuse](#) | [Reply »](#)  
For those of us born and raised here, this is absolutely no suprise.

**APDdungcollectio n** *Albuquerque, NM* Feb 23, 2011 #3 | [Judge it!](#) | [Report Abuse](#) | [Reply »](#)  
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And then there are their tactics: key witnesses (APD officers)who don't show either because they don't want to testify or they have been paid not to show. Cases getting "lost" in the system resulting in dismissal because of failure to prosecute by a specific date; cozy relationships between the accused and the prosecutors office whereby charges are quietly "dismissed"; cozy relationships between lawyers that result in sweetheart deals; and my favorite, packing the court with la familia who all loudly state "he is really a good boy who made a mistake" despite being a repeat offender.

**APDdungcollectio n** *Albuquerque, NM* Feb 23, 2011 #4 | [Judge it!](#) | [Report Abuse](#) | [Reply »](#)

APD Looking Into Officer's Gun Used In Shooting  
By Jeff Proctor  
Wednesday, 23 February 2011 16:23  
Economidy Working Desk Duty For Duration of Probe

Albuquerque Police Detective Trey Economidy may not have been qualified on the .45 calibre handgun he used to fatally shoot Jacob Mitschelen after a traffic stop earlier this month, authorities said.

"Issues have come to our attention that the firearm he utilized may not have been the weapon he should've been carrying on the evening of the incident," Police Chief Ray Schultz said.

That concern coupled with a post on Economidy's Facebook page in which he listed his occupation as "human waste disposal" are among the issues being explored in an Internal Affairs investigation, Schultz said.

Those issues also prompted Schultz on Tuesday to assign Economidy to desk duty -- meaning he is not doing any active police work -- until further notice.

Read previous Journal coverage here and here and pick up a copy of tomorrow's paper for a complete report.

Read more: ABQNews Lights and Sirens: APD Looking Into Officer's Gun Used In Shooting <http://www.abqjournal.com/abqnews/crime-blott...>

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The considerate Moon and dynamic Uranus inspire some house cleaning as they join forces today; give what you don't need to charity and recycle whatever you can. This will not only rid your home of excess clutter, but it will also help you to clear your mind. Learning to let go of what you don't need is a life-changing process.

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