



State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice
10th Judicial District

DONALD W. STEPHENS
SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

WAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PO BOX 351
RALEIGH, NC 27602
March 6, 2012

TELEPHONE: (919) 792-4850
FAX: (919) 792-4851

Mr. Greg McLeod, Director
North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation
Post Office Box 29500
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626

RE: Request for Investigation

Dear Director McLeod:

I have today received information from employees at WRAL-TV concerning WRAL Facebook postings by individuals who purport to have knowledge that a juror in the Jason Young homicide case may have texted or discussed the case in the presence of other members of the public.

Although this social media conversation, a copy of which is attached, is unsubstantiated hearsay and appears to lack any credible factual basis, it suggests that there is a question about the deliberative process of the jury.

In spite of the fact that this type of gossip is usually baseless, any information reported to the Court that challenges the integrity of a jury verdict has to be investigated. The integrity of the court system is more important than any person, any case, or any verdict.

Therefore, I am requesting that your agency investigate these unsubstantiated claims to determine if there is credible evidence that the jury verdict in this case has been compromised in any manner.

I have advised WRAL-TV of this request and have asked that they cooperate with your investigation. By separate letter I am advising all twelve jurors of this investigation and asking for their cooperation.

If I can be of further assistance or provide additional information, please advise me.

Sincerely,


Donald W. Stephens

DWS:tps

cc: Counsel of Record

Enclosure

Write a comment...

Mina Sirketal Partner

JURIAL should this not be reported I did not think the jury was suppose to talk to anyone?? Jane Andersen Well met A fellow on the jury one evening and he talked about the trial the whole time. I told him he should not speak of the trial he said he was unbiased, so no matter if he spoke of it without a shadow of a doubt is what I told him

Like · Comment · 7 hours ago · 0

0 2 people like this

Jeffrey Russell My friend's friend is friends with a woman on the jury. She was supposedly texting her telling her how the vote was going.
5 hours ago · Not Spam

Write a comment...

Brenda Well

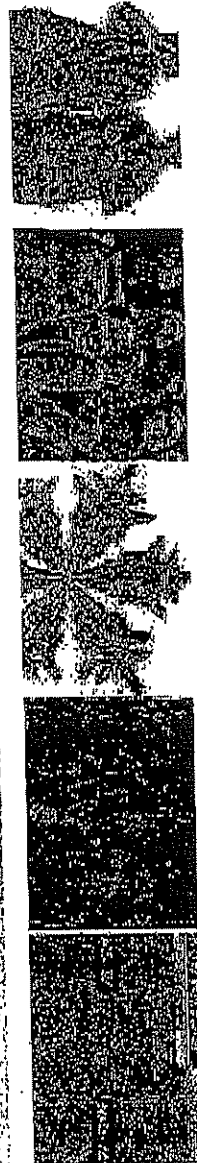
How about 'talk' about the number one hot spot today? The fact that this



photos,
tips, using
it tabs

WRAL TV

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Write something...

Jennifer Russell

My hairdresser is friends with a jury member on the JV trial. They are now deadlocked at 9 Guilty 3 Not Guilty. It was 7 Not Guilty 5 Guilty!

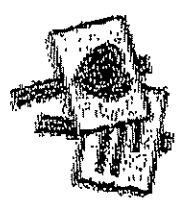
like · Comment · 48 minutes ago · [✕](#)

EVERY MEMBER would post statements of fact. I would like to write instead. I want the jury to consider me with the friend of the jury, and I want to see the jury's decision. I'm not a lawyer.

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Write a comment...



Support other businesses
Tell people about other businesses
Click on the Add Page's Favorites the left-hand col their Page.

Admins (19/13)



Use Facebook as WRAL TV

Notifications

Messages

Promote with an Ad

View old Insights

Invite Friends

Know what WRAL TV



All 10 friends like this.

2 friends have worked here.

sbs

by (1+)

that

h Friends

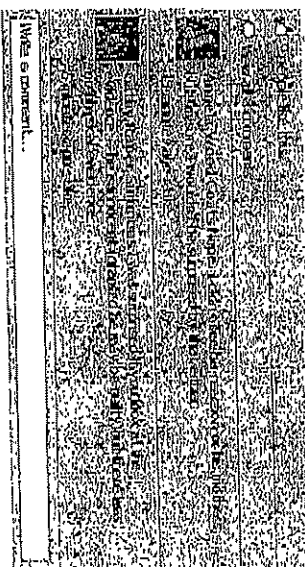
Edit

Reporters:
010/20/4

facebook

Search

1/4



Write a comment...

Hina Sackelhal Parker
you should see not be report I did not think the jury was suppose to ask to anyone? Jane Anderson was not A fellow on the jury one evening and he talked about the trial she while time. I did not he should not speak of the trial he said he was unbiased, so no matter if the speaker of the words is steady of a doubt is what I told him

Like · Comment · 7 hours ago · 3

Comment - Hussell her husband is Beverly job a woman on the jury. She was surprised by hearing her say she was the wife of the judge.

Share · 1 hour ago · 1

Write a comment...

Brenda Wall
How about 'talk' about the number one hot spot today? The fact that this trailer (we call our politics)... has showed once again the very messy, prime matter of Israeli.

The fact that 'HISTORY' a U.S. prez has not asked himself our very best friend in the middle east... this is what every American wants to know!!... thank you!!!

Like · Comment · 8 hours ago · 3

WRAL TV
Do you agree with the guilty verdict in the Jason Young case? If not, why? WRAL Debra Kagan and WRAL Gerald Dwyer will be sharing some of your comments tonight on our news at 10pm on FOX 30.

Use · Comment · Share · 11 hours ago · 4



Write a comment...

WRAL Tara Lynn
trying to catch my breath... about to go live for the third time in two hours on the Jason Young verdict. We have a 30 minute special at 7pm on WRAL TV

Share Post · 11 hours ago

HEALTH
1,134 people like Invasive Health.

Slumber Survey

How much would you pay for a good night's sleep? Take the free, fun Slumber Survey and see how you compare to others!

Esch Calk & Team

What's the best city to live in the Triangle? To vote for Raleigh, click below!

20 Like · Not Bar that Anger of Mass Inc.

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March 6, 2012

Mr. Steve Hammel, Vice President
WRAL-TV
2619 Western Boulevard
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605


Dear Mr. Hammel:

The Court has been made aware of postings on the WRAL Facebook page suggesting possible inappropriate juror conduct during deliberation in the Jason Young homicide trial.

I want to thank your company for providing this information. I have forwarded these postings to the Director of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and have requested their assistance in determining whether there is credible evidence that the jury verdict in this case may have been compromised. A copy of that request is attached.

I trust that your company will fully cooperate in this matter.

Sincerely,


Donald W. Stephens

DWS:tps

cc: Counsel of Record

Enclosure



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DONALD W. STEPHENS
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PO BOX 351
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TELEPHONE: (919) 782-4950
FAX: (919) 782-4881

March 6, 2012

Ms. Tracey Raksnis

Dear Ms. Raksnis:

The Court has been notified that there were postings on the WRAL-TV Facebook page suggesting that a juror in the Jason Young case may have discussed the case with some unknown person. When this type of accusation occurs, the Court is required to conduct an inquiry.

Do not be alarmed. This is not an entirely unusual event. Social media gossip postings frequently make unsubstantiated and unfounded hearsay claims such as these.

All of the jurors in this case will be contacted by an agent of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and will be asked a few questions. You are not suspected of any misconduct. We are simply trying to run down the source of these unsubstantiated accusations. I ask that you please cooperate with this brief inquiry.

If you have any questions, please contact the jury clerk for assistance.

Sincerely,


Donald W. Stephens

DWS:tps