

## Ripp Report

To whom it may concern:

Kristi Hagood works as an Assistant District Attorney in the Baldwin County District Attorney's Office. According to her campaign website, she has served in that office since 2017 and is currently assigned to the Child Advocacy Unit, where she prosecutes felony child abuse, elder abuse, and financial exploitation cases.

When the Rule 32 petition filed on behalf of Murray Lawrence Jr. challenged his wrongful conviction, the response was filed under Kristi Hagood's name. That case involved homicide, forensic evidence, and constitutional issues that have nothing to do with the work of the Child Advocacy Unit. The fact that Judge Robert Wilters assigned her to respond raises serious questions about why a prosecutor whose department focuses on child and elder abuse was chosen to handle a post conviction case of this magnitude.

Her response on behalf of the State ignored the most critical contradictions in the record. The autopsy was performed in Mississippi, not Alabama. The death certificate listed strangulation, not gunshot. Several witnesses admitted they were pressured or threatened into changing their statements. The indictment was unsigned by the grand jury foreman. None of those facts were addressed or explained in the State's filing.

The decision to assign this case to Kristi Hagood, a prosecutor working outside of her area of expertise, reflects how the Baldwin County justice system continues to protect itself rather than seek the truth. The Rule 32 petition presented evidence that could not be denied, yet the State's response denied everything without ever confronting the facts.

Now Kristi Hagood is running for judge. The public has every right to question why she agreed to defend a conviction this flawed and why Judge Robert Wilters, the same judge who presided over the original trial, assigned the response to someone in her department. If she is willing to ignore evidence and defend a wrongful conviction to protect the institution she serves, how can she be trusted to sit on the bench and deliver fair rulings

Justice in Baldwin County requires transparency, accountability, and integrity. The people deserve judges who will stand up for what is right, not protect the same system that allowed an innocent man to be convicted.

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