

LAWYER HANLON*
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March 21, 2020

Dear National Association for Public Defense:

Here's a statement I've asked Ernie Lewis to post on the NAPD webpage re the remarkable decision of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal in State v Spears last Friday.

It takes a village.

But every village has a chief, and in this village, that was Chief East Baton Rouge Public Defender Michael Mitchell, who courageously stood up and said, "We simply cannot and will not continue to risk violating the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct and the United States Constitution anymore."

There are many others, of course, but I want to acknowledge several of them in particular here.

We were led by a great lawyer, John Landis of Stone Pigman, and his remarkable associate Maggie Broussard. My wonderful colleague, the late Norman Lefstein, did yeoman work on this case before his death in August last year. He is rightly known as the architect of the modern indigent defense movement.

We are also immensely grateful to Arnold Ventures for providing support for the workload study used in this litigation and the litigation itself.

The entire record in this case will soon be posted on the website of the National Association for Public Defense, so that public defenders all over America can use this case as a model for reform, following Michael Mitchell's courageous example in East Baton Rouge.

Sincerely,
LAWYER HANLON
/s/
Stephen F Hanlon

***Website for new firm to follow soon.**

