

RECEIVED

MAR 19 1998

DUE \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT  
EXHIBIT G

March 12, 1998

Steven B. Snyder, Trial Attorney  
Civil Division, Torts Branch  
United States Department of Justice  
PO Box 888, Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044

Re: *Trentadue v. United States*, Civil Action No. 97-849 (W.D.OK.)

Dear Mr. Snyder

This letter memorializes the discussions we had and the events that transpired this week. This letter also presumes that your clients include the FBI and the Bureau of Prisons.

On Monday, March 9, 1998, you called me and expressed your concern about Kevin Rowland attending an exhibition of evidence at the local FBI office on Wednesday, March 11, 1998. You said the exhibition was a part of the discovery process in the above entitled civil lawsuit. As you know, neither the Chief Medical Examiner of Oklahoma (Dr. Fred Jordan), nor any employee of that office, is a party to the lawsuit.

The focus of your apprehension about Mr. Rowland's participation in this matter was your suspicion that Mr. Rowland had been hired by the Trentadue family as an expert or some other type of consultant. You indicated your surprise that Dr. Jordan would countenance such a circumstance in light of your recent visit with him. You expressed to me that this had shaken your belief in Dr. Jordan's impartiality in his investigation into the death of Kenneth Trentadue.

Your implication that Dr. Jordan or Mr. Rowland had altered their *modus operandi* and were now engaging in improper behavior was clear and



unmistakable. You reminded me about certain exposures in the media and your conclusion from those media events that Mr. Rowland is biased against certain federal agencies, specifically your clients. You also indicated that Dr. Jordan was similarly postured against your clients based upon the episodes in the media.

I advised you during this initial conversation that I had no knowledge of the evidentiary exhibition nor Mr. Rowland's alleged participation in the event. I was surprised at the tenor of your accusations and did my best to reassure you that the Oklahoma Chief Medical Examiner and his employees scrupulously adhere to the highest ethical standards and their only interest is to discover the truth of the matter in all cases. However, I did assure you that the investigation into Kenneth Trentadue's death was still proceeding, and, as in any other criminal investigation we would gather information from any available source by any lawful means. Nevertheless, I also assured you that I would discover what I could about the circumstances surrounding the evidentiary exhibition and Rowland's alleged participation.


I immediately contacted Mr. Rowland who advised me that he had no knowledge about attending the evidentiary exhibition and had no plans of being in attendance. However, he was subsequently contacted by someone from the office of Mr. Scott Adams and invited to attend the exhibition. Mr. Adams is apparently local counsel for the Trentadue family and had purportedly invited representatives of the Oklahoma City Police Department and/or the Oklahoma County DA's office along with representatives of the Medical Examiner's office to attend the showing. Mr. Adams, or other representatives of the Trentadue family, believed that there may be evidence produced at the exhibition which the medical examiner was not heretofore privy to. Their interests in revealing the evidence to the medical examiner or other law enforcement officials was ostensibly to aid in their quest to learn the truth about Kenneth Trentadue's death.

I related my findings to you on Tuesday, March 10, 1998. You expressed your "relief" that the Medical Examiner had not lost his sense of impartiality or had otherwise engaged in inappropriate behavior. Unfortunately, this affair does not provide much solace for me or my client, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Oklahoma.

In every case the medical examiner remains impartial and seeks to discover only the truth. To date nobody has shown me any palpable evidence to the contrary. Of course, because of the nature of the business, most cases are criminal investigations of homicides or other violent or unnatural deaths. This obviously means dealing with district attorneys and criminal defense attorneys. Nonetheless, the medical examiner extends every courtesy and reveals all factual evidence he discovers from his investigation to all parties.

Whether the medical examiner's investigation helps the defense and hurts the prosecution is not factor in the medical examiner's investigation, albeit, it is generally the other way around. The fact of the matter is, the medical examiner, on a regular basis, "works with" defense attorneys whose clients have committed gruesome and heinous offenses. The medical examiner recognizes that the defense attorneys have a job to do and he does not ascribe the offenses of the client to counsel.

This is not to say that we would not expect, as a general matter, for defense attorneys to fight like the dickens to keep the medical examiner from revealing to a jury what his investigation revealed. In most cases, the medical examiner has uncovered evidence that shows the defendant has committed the offenses charged. Thus, we would expect defense attorneys to resist revelation of the evidence, despite that the evidence proves the truth about what happened. And, to nobody's surprise, some defense attorneys conduct themselves rather poorly and may even engage in shabby behavior such as accusing others of misconduct.



In the investigation into the death of Kenneth Trentadue all the rules seem to have been set aside. In a sort of "Alice through the Looking Glass" set of circumstances, truth has been obfuscated by the agendas of various federal agencies (mostly your clients). Particularly in the initial, and most critical, stage of the investigation when your clients muddled and meddled their way into the investigative operation. In the process, your clients prevented the medical examiner from conducting a through and complete investigation into the death, destroyed evidence, and otherwise harassed and harangued Dr. Jordan and his staff. The absurdity of this situation is that your clients outwardly represent law enforcement or at least some arm of licit government.

Nevertheless, even though the chances of ever establishing what really happened in this case have essentially vanished, the medical examiner will

still look at any evidence that may be forthcoming in an attempt to uncover the real truth in the death of Kenneth Trentadue. Whether the truth of the matter is that Kenneth Trentadue severely beat and bruised himself, slashed his own throat, and ultimately hung himself, which may displease the Trentadue family, or that he was beaten and killed by others, which may displease you and your clients, matters not to the medical examiner. The only item of interest in the medical examiner's investigation is the truth about what happened. It is, in the end, the task of the medical examiner to establish the cause and manner of this death.

The real tragedy in this case appears to be the perversion of law through chicanery and the misuse of public trust under the guise of some aberrant form of federalism. In a succession of either illegal, negligent, or just plain stupid acts, your clients succeeded in derailing the medical examiner's investigation and thereby, may have obstructed justice in this case. As more and more information is revealed in this case, primarily through the efforts of Jesse Trentadue, it appears that your clients, and perhaps others within the Department of Justice, have been abusing the powers of their respective offices. If this is true, all Americans should be very frightened of your clients and the DOJ. Undaunted, when you come into possession of the least little tidbit of misinformation you immediately conclude that my client, who has always acted honorably, has suddenly abandoned his principles to improperly torpedo your nefarious group.

I presume that I should not fault you for the sins of your client. And, perhaps I should afford you the benefit of mitigating circumstances to account for your readiness to presume the worst from my client. After all, when you are surrounded by those who behave badly for a long enough period of time, you tend to believe that everyone else acts the same way. Hence drug users and other depraved individuals tend to think everyone else is doing "it" too. Of course, that is why there is so much truth in the saying "a child trusts everyone and a thief none." In the future, when dealing with federal agencies, I am sad to report, we shall strive not to repeat our childlike trust.

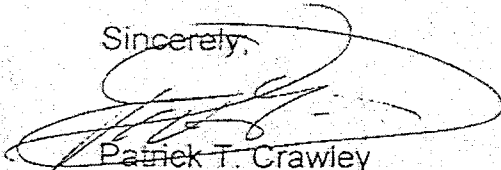
The investigation into the death of Kenneth Trentadue is still open. If it appears that the medical examiner is not particularly fond of your clients and is openly distrustful of them and the DOJ, it is not any more curious than a similar posture taken towards other criminal defendants who appear to have some liability in a case under investigation and seek to intervene or otherwise control the medical examiner's investigation. I will remind you

that, to date, any and all evidence of wrongdoing points only to your client or clients. This is true regardless of how Kenneth Trentadue was killed. One of the primary distinguishing features of this investigation has been the power of possible suspects to interfere with the inquiry under color of law. Naturally we view any participation by suspects in an investigation with no small amount of alarm and distrust.

If you take issue with the facts as I have related them in this case, please do not hesitate to contact me. However, I do not expect that you would particularly agree with my assessment of the situation and would not expect a retort in that regard.

Good luck in your lawsuit.

Sincerely,



Patrick T. Crawley  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counsel for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

cc: Dr. Fred Jordan, MD, Chief Medical Examiner  
Jesse C. Trentadue  
; Charles P. Sampson  
R. Scott Adams  
Robert H. Macy, District Attorney