

News Outlet Plans Lawsuit to Obtain ‘Incriminating’ Emails Linked to Cosby Accuser’s Lawyer and Prosecutor

By Stacy M. Brown | NNPA Newswire Correspondent

(NNPA) - Prosecutors who won a conviction against Bill Cosby have refused a request from the owners of YC News for emails between Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele, who led the criminal prosecution against Cosby, and Delores Troiani, an attorney who represented Andrea Constand in her civil proceedings against Cosby. YC News is a Philadelphia-area news organization that covered both of the convicted comedian’s trials.

In an alert posted on its Facebook Page, YC News claimed the emails were so incriminating that they “could void Cosby’s sentence.” YC News’ parent company, Original Media Group Corporation, plans to file a federal lawsuit to obtain the emails.

YC News has said that it seeks the emails in order to gain additional insight into any prior relationship and/or information exchanged between Steele and Troiani that may have impacted the course of Cosby’s trial proceedings.

YC News pointed to a May 2016 federal hearing in which Troiani ad-



mitted under oath that she had worked with Steele when he was the acting Deputy District Attorney of Montgomery County, supplying his office with documents stored in her basement.

It’s unusual for a civil attorney to work alongside detectives and prosecutors during an ongoing and active criminal investigation, the news outlet argued. “It’s even more peculiar that Steele relied on information provided by a civil attorney representing Constand, who had used that information in a civil suit against Cosby.”

Troiani told Judge Eduardo C. Robreno that Steele visited her in July

of 2015, asking for a copy of the Cosby file that had been used in the 2005 criminal investigation and civil suit.

Troiani stated that she had approximately ten boxes in her basement and that she handed them over to Steele.

Troiani didn’t know exactly what the boxes that she handed over to Steele contained, according to her court statements. “Can I recreate what I gave the D.A.’s Office? No.,” Troiani told Judge Robreno. “I have no idea.”

A few months later, and just ten days before the 2015 election that would determine Montgomery County, PA’s

next District Attorney, a federal suit was filed against Steele’s opponent Bruce Castor. Castor was the District Attorney that declined to criminally charge Cosby in 2005.

A primary focus (some would say “the” primary focus) of Steele’s campaign messaging was Castor’s “poorly run” investigation of Cosby. The message was fueled by an ad campaign at least partially financed via a timely \$45,000 donation from Steele’s brother.

YC News reported that the host of unreleased emails could shed light on any unsavory dealings between Troiani and Steele, in-

cluding information that would suggest that Constand admitted to lying about the Cosby assault.

The emails were said to be a central part of dueling lawsuits between Castor and Constand, both of whom sued each other alleging defamation.

“[My] well-reasoned decision to not prosecute Cosby, based upon their client’s marked inconsistencies and behavior, would, apparently, serve to compromise Troiani’s ...goals,” Castor said in court filings. “That Steele used evidence from a civil suit to build a criminal case, with Troiani’s help, is usually

tough to do because of the different burdens of proof.”

YC News’ filing suggests that it was for that reason, the first jury in the 2017 Cosby trial failed to reach a verdict after 10 days of deliberation.

Quoting Troiani’s testimony that she provided material from other accusers to Steele for what would become two criminal trials of Cosby, YC News questioned why the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office lost portions of their own Cosby files.

The lost files caused them to rely on the records of Troiani, who was actively representing the accuser, Constand, in a separate civil suit against Castor, and the 2005 civil suit against Cosby.

Troiani stated in court filings that the files were returned to her at a later date “in far better shape than I had it — when I had it.”

Neither Steele’s office nor Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt returned messages left for comment.

Attempts to reach Troiani were unsuccessful.

Prada Announces Diversity Council After Blackface Outrage

By The Associated Press

MILAN (AP) - Italian brand Prada said it is forming a diversity council to “elevate voices of color within the company and fashion industry at large,” a move that follows accusations of racism in the luxury fashion world.

Two Americans, artist Theaster Gates and film director Ava DuVernay, will chair the council, Prada said Wednesday. The group will work to develop “diverse talent” and create more opportunities for students of color, the luxury fashion house said.

Gates said his work “amplifies the voices that have been absent

from the broad cultural conversations,” and he was happy to work with Prada to help make the company more “reflective of the world today.”

Prada apologized in December and immediately withdrew bag charms with exaggerated red lips. Critics said the charms recalled the Blackface caricatures that long propagated racist stereotypes in the United States.

The fashion world controversy intensified after a similar misstep this month by Gucci. Another prominent African-American director, Spike Lee, said he would wear neither Prada nor Gucci until they included



In this Nov. 18, 2018, file photo filmmaker Ava DuVernay addresses the audience during the 2018 Governors Awards at The Ray Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

Black designers.

“Prada is committed to cultivating, recruiting and retaining diverse talent to contribute to all departments of the company,” said Miuccia Prada, CEO and creative director. “In addition to amplifying

voices of color within the industry, we will help ensure that the fashion world is reflective of the world in which we live.”

She said the initiative would “help us grow not only as a company, but also as individuals.” Blackface carica-

tures popularized in 19th century minstrel shows also have attracted renewed attention in the United States after old photos emerged of White politicians wearing Blackface or condoning it.



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