

U.S. Attorney John Brownlee's Unbelievable Hyperbole in Comments on Dr. Knox' Conviction

Robert Milliron; Letter to the Editor; The Roanoke Times 2005-09-19; Posted: 2005-09-19

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To the Editors of The Roanoke Times

No one could believe such hyperbole

The asinine comment by the current U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia that the conviction of Dr. Cecil Knox was "the most significant conviction in this district in the past 30 years" (Sept. 3 news article, "Dr. Knox pleads guilty, surrenders license") says more about the mental state of the U.S. attorney than anything else.

Look at the facts: Dr. Knox initially faced more than 300 felony counts, was acquitted (or charges were dismissed) of most of those in the first trial, and ultimately pleaded guilty to four, for which he may never serve one single day.

And to say that this particular case is "the most significant in the last 30 years" is very much akin to the comment by the president who appointed him that combat in Iraq was over a year and a half ago (before 1,800 more U.S. servicemen were killed).

But the real tragedy of John Brownlee's supercilious comment is that he is denigrating the job that has been done in the U.S. attorney's office "in the past 30 years" by men who obviously had two qualities he lacks: competence and integrity.

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