

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/column/tony-messenger/messenger-a-letter-to-a-ballwin-lawyer-and-a-lesson-about-elections-for-jay-ashcroft/article_fd5bf3de-af1b-11ee-939c-57cfd6dfb3f3.html

ALERT TOP STORY

Messenger: A letter to a Ballwin lawyer and a lesson about elections for Jay Ashcroft

Jan 10, 2024

By Tony Messenger

Metro columnist

BALLWIN — On the day Jay Ashcroft ran to the CNN television cameras, Matt Conlon walked into the Ballwin Government Center. Both men had the same topic on their minds: access to the election ballot.

Ashcroft is Missouri’s secretary of state. He’s running for the Republican nomination for governor. To draw attention to his right-wing bona fides, he announced last week that he might consider an attempt to **remove President Joe Biden from Missouri’s ballot** if other states remove Donald Trump from their ballots.

Ashcroft can’t do that, of course. As t... constitution is different than Maine’s... blocked Trump from the ballot, citing... insurrection clause. The same issue i... and soon will be decided by the U.S.

RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... X



People are also reading..

- 1 **Mizzou defensive coordinator Blake Baker leaves for same role at LSU**
 - 2 **Holleman: Wesley Bell's top aide made more than \$650,000 by moonlighting**
 - 3 **Kevin Hayes denies involvement in Cutter Gauthier's decision to not sign in Philadelphia: 'It's completely false'**
 - 4 **Man charged in St. Louis with running massive Ponzi scheme, bilking clients out of millions**
-

Court is where these things are generally decided. Ashcroft, a lawyer, knows this. In fact, when he recently tried to block an abortion-rights initiative from the ballot, the Missouri Court of Appeals **chided him for his dishonesty**.

That's what Conlon, a Ballwin resident, wanted to talk to the Board of Aldermen about on Monday — honesty.

Two years ago, Robert E. Jones, the city attorney for Ballwin, went to court to knock a man named Brennan Redinger **off the local ballot**. Redinger, at the time a newcomer in Ballwin, wanted to run for an aldermanic seat. Mayor Tim Pogue paid Redinger an uninvited visit at his home, telling Redinger he hadn't lived in town long enough to run for office. Redinger eventually filled out a form to withdraw from the race, but it was too late to change the ballot.

Watch on X

RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... X



No problem, Jones decided. He filed a lawsuit on Redinger's behalf to get him removed from the ballot. The attorney on the opposing side, representing the St. Louis County Board of Elections, was from the same law firm, Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe. But Jones had never spoken to Redinger. He misrepresented to the court that Redinger was his client.

At the time, Alderman Kevin Roach got wind of what was going on and investigated. He presented the results to Ashcroft, who, as secretary of state, has some authority to enforce violations of election law.

Ashcroft passed.

But Roach didn't give up. After Conlon came to a Board of Aldermen meeting last year to explain his disgust at the situation — and was chided by the mayor and Jones — Roach filed a complaint with the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel. That's the office in Missouri that disciplines attorneys for various levels of wrongdoing.

At some point last year, after Roach filed his complaint, Jones **refunded his attorney's fees** in the Redinger case to the city. But that didn't absolve him of wrongdoing.

So said the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel in a letter of admonition it issued in September. I obtained the letter in a Sunshine Law request. So did Conlon.

 Download PDF

RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... ×

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLIN
SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI



Tony Messenger
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Re: Inquiry regarding Attorney Robert E. Jones

Dear Mr. Messenger:

In further review of our records, a letter of Admonition was issued in September, 2023 to attorney Robert Edward Jones, Missouri Bar No. 35111. Attached is a copy of the Admonition letter.

Mr. Messenger, your voicemail message of October 2, 2023, states your request is pursuant to the provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law, Section 610.010, et seq., RSMo. Please note, the Missouri Sunshine Law does not apply to the disclosure of attorney disciplinary records. Disclosure of such records is governed by Missouri Supreme Court Rule 5.31. See also Missouri Constitution, Article V, Section 5 and Section 610-021 (14), RSMo. Attorney disciplinary records are public only when ordered by the Missouri Supreme Court, or requested by the subject attorney, and when explicitly made public by Missouri Supreme Court Rule 5.31.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Tony Messenger

Conlon read a portion of the letter to
on a Missouri Supreme Court rule th
for misrepresenting that Redinger w
make a false statement of fact or law
of material fact or law previously ma

RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... X



A letter of admonition is the lowest l
Joy, a law professor at Washington U

attorney wants to have on their record.

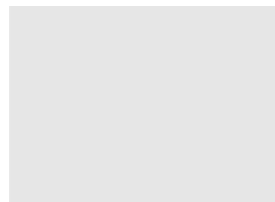
“Lawyer discipline is imperative because lawyers have specific obligations to their clients and the courts,” Joy says. “The lawyer crossed ethical lines and there were consequences.”

Conlon wanted to make sure the letter got addressed in a public meeting in Ballwin.

“This issue has a terrible smell attached to it,” he told the aldermen, saying he was taking them all to task — with the exception of Roach — for not standing up for what was right.

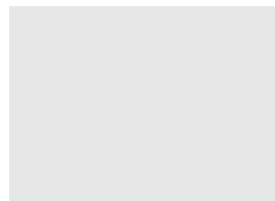
“This is not an old boys’ club,” Conlon told the aldermen. “Please stop trying to make it one.”

It was a local admonition but with a message that shouldn’t escape Ashcroft: Messing with the ballot is no trivial matter.



A mayor’s visit, a mysterious lawsuit. How a Ballwin man was removed from the ballot.

Tony Messenger



Messenger: Ballwin’s city attorney refunds money after ethical questions are raised

Tony Messenger

RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... ×

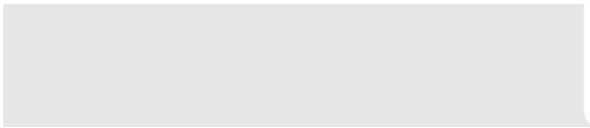


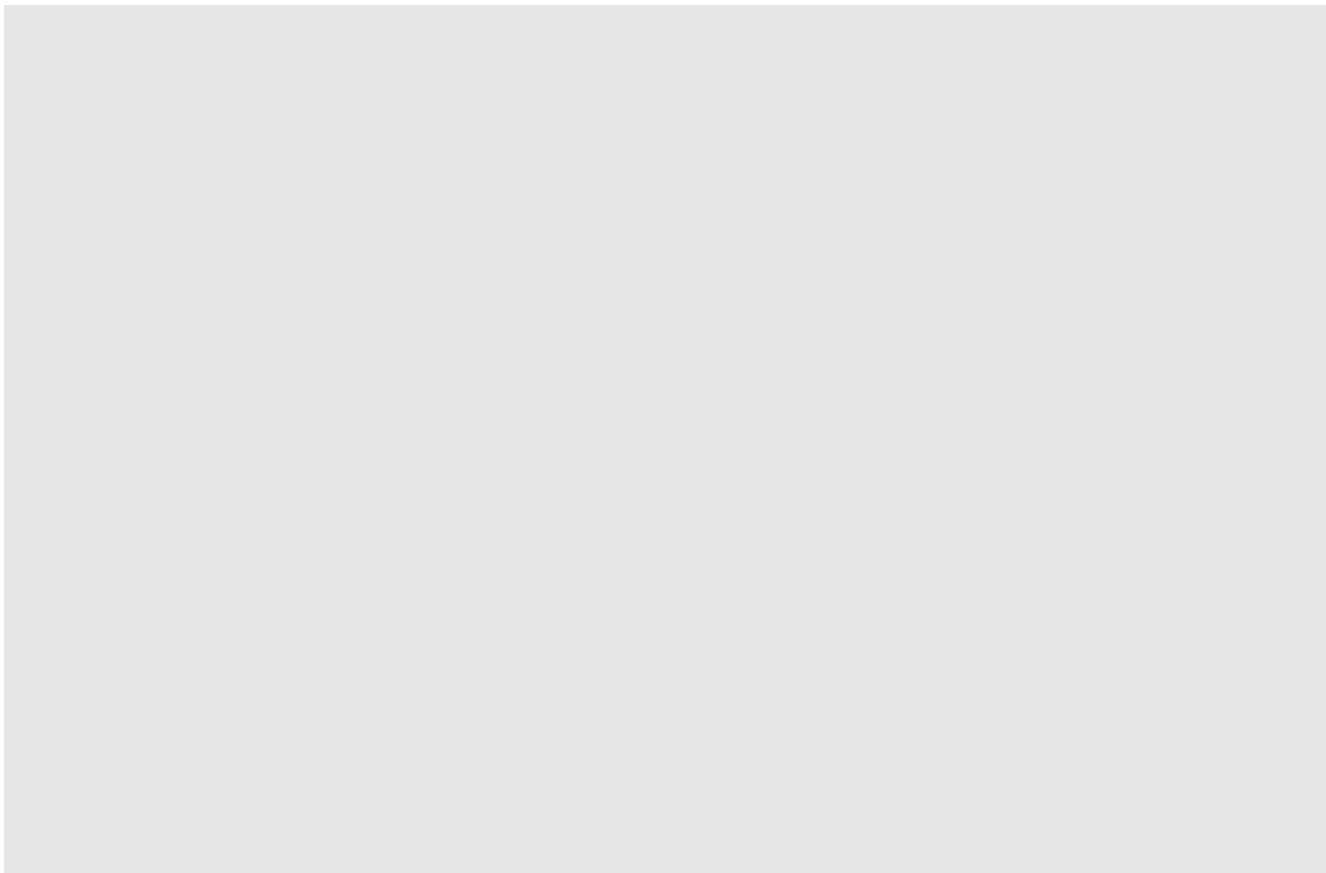


A cyclist rides his bicycle past lights and greenery on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023. Photo by Laurie Skrivan.

View the Post-Dispatch photographers' photos from December 2023.

RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... X





Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft.

Laurie Skrivan, Post-Dispatch

Around The Web



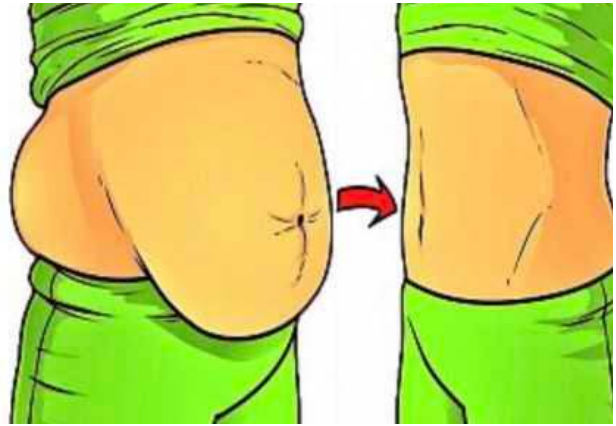
RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... X

Diabetes is Not from Sweets! Meet the Main Enemy of Diabetes





Shocking: Seniors Now Choosing Krill over Compression Socks - Find out Why



Exotic Sea Salt Slimming Secret - Do This Before Bed (Burns Fat Like Crazy)



No More Swollen Legs, Ankles, or Feet. Try This! Watch Now



This "1" Bionic Knee Sleeve Has Surgeons Speechless



Experience Firewood Collection Made Easy with This Incredible Dri Bit



RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... X





Neuropathy: Do This at Home to Relieve Your Nerve Pain

By Tony Messenger

Metro columnist

RELATED NEWS: - 'What allegations are you talking about?': C... X

