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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Rawlinson tabbed for judgeship

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Senate confirmation separates Johnnie Rawlinson from making judicial history in Nevada.

If confirmed by the 105th Congress, Rawlinson, a Clark County District Attorney, would be the first African-American and the first woman to serve as a U.S. District Judge in Nevada.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., tabbed Rawlinson on Monday as his nominee for the soon-to-be-vacated post of Chief U.S. District Judge Lloyd George. George is taking senior status so that Nevada can secure another full-time federal judge.

"If confirmed I would be committed to being

fair, hard working and worthy of the honor the people of the United States and the state of Nevada have bestowed upon me," she said. "It's a very momentous occasion for Nevada," she said of the nomination.

Rawlinson was Reid's second choice for the judgeship. Kathryn Landreth bowed out of her nomination citing personal reasons.

As a federal judge, Rawlinson would preside over both federal and civil trials in U.S. District Court. Federal judgeships are lifetime appointments.

Reid said she was a solid choice. "With more than 17 years of experience in the district attorney's office, Johnnie B. Rawlinson has what it takes to be an excellent federal judge," he said. "I have watched her career with great

interest ever since Governor Bob Miller hired her as a deputy DA fresh out of law school. I am proud to recommend her name to the President."

He told her about the nomination last Friday.

"I'm very honored that Sen. Reid nominated me," said the 20-year Clark County resident. "Any lawyer would be honored to be nominated for a federal judgeship. It's kind of the pinnacle for any attorney."

After an extensive background check, Rawlinson will head to Washington, D.C. for Senate confirmation hearings. If all goes well, she hopes to be confirmed by January.

The 44-year-old North Carolinian was a member of the first integrated class at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis.

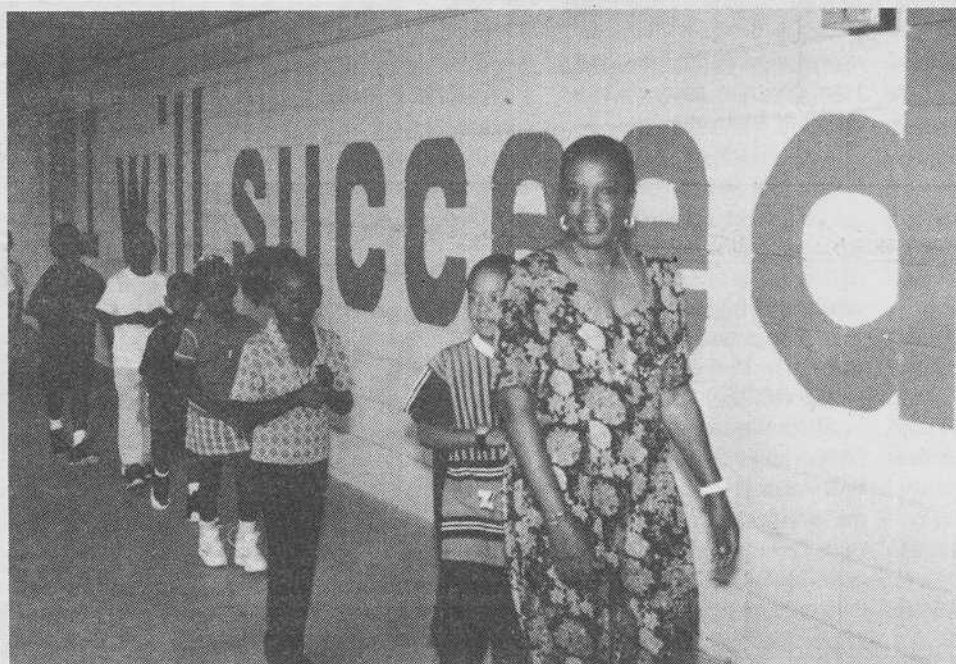
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JOHNNIE RAWLINSON

School's in

At right, Henrietta Scott leads students Monday at Matt Kelly Elementary School past a painted mantra on the wall urging them toward success. (Bottom left) Workers trudge on inside a bathroom Wednesday at Charles I. West Middle School. Construction is still ongoing at the school. West is the first middle school built in West Las Vegas in nearly three decades. (Bottom right) Marian Cahlan Elementary School Principal Jean Jackson leafs through paperwork Monday as a student watches.



Sentinel-Voice
photos by
Ramon Savoy

Teen suspect's trial April 20

Strohmeyer pleads not guilty

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

The trial of murder suspect Jeremy Strohmeyer will begin April 20, a judge ruled Monday.

Despite constant bickering, prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed to the April 20 trial date for the Long Beach, Calif., teen who pleaded not guilty Monday to raping and strangling a 7-year-old girl at the Primm hotel, 43 miles south of Las Vegas.

Strohmeyer, 18, faces the death penalty for the May 25 attack on Los Angeles second-grader Sherrice Iverson. He was indicted on charges of first-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping and two counts of sexual assault on a minor resulting in substantial bodily harm.

His hair in a spiked style, a clean-shaven Strohmeyer exchanged smiles and smirks with at least one family member during Monday's arraignment in the courtroom of District Judge Don Chairez.

Before the judge's ruling, attorneys from both sides traded barbs and quipped over possible trial dates, prompting Chairez to recess the court to find an acceptable date.

Deputy District Attorney Peggy Leen charged the defense with snagging the

(See Strohmeyer, Page 2)

Coalition submits police control board recommendations

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Hailing it a start, a newly formed citizens' group said it hopes the police control board created by the 1997 Legislature will halt police misconduct and judicial injustice.

The Clark County Coalition of Concerned Citizens recently submitted its request for the control board, requesting that at least four minorities serve on the board which they say should be capped at 13 - eight elected officials, five appointed.

"It's a start," said Daniel Bell, 51, the coalition's volunteer public relations coordinator. "I think what the Senate and the Legislature wanted to do was remove the legislative restriction they had on county's forming them (civilian review boards). The Legislature didn't say how the board had to be made up, it just said that you now have the authority to create one."

The group believes its' recommendations, which also cover staffing, ethnic demographics and term limits, serve the best interest of the

community.

The coalition plans to send its recommendations, via audio and video presentations, to Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones, District Attorney Stewart Bell, Gov. Bob Miller, State Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. The group is also considering distributing the information throughout the valley.

But not everyone in the group is happy with the board. "This is nothing like what we (NAARPR) wanted," said Talib Hall, president

of the local chapter of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. "But this is what we have to work with, so, we're going to try and make the most of it. We're going to try and put as much teeth into this civilian review board as we can."

The alliance unsuccessfully pushed for civilian police review boards several years ago.

The alliance is one of a cross-section of community organizations comprising the coalition started as a result of the officer-involved

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