### The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

afraid to look at a case and

say that we were wrong,"

Creuzot said. "It seems like

they're more concerned

about preserving a legacy

Dees also called to abol-

Gordon Jackson writes

than seeking justice."

ish the death penalty.

# **Justice**

(Continued from Page 2) heart of longtime district attorney Henry Wade's administration, Watkins said: "The climate then was always being tougher on crime, not smart on crime."

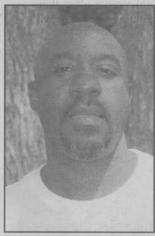
Moderator and IPOT board member Joyce King, also author of "Hate Crime, The Story of a Dragging in Jasper, Texas," said, "Dallas has changed, is changing and will continue to change."

Dees said the justice system had always acted like a sporting event.

"Somebody is going to ' win, somebody is going to lose," Dees said. I don't know if the American people really want justice. Some juries are ready to make a decision even before they hear the evidence."

Says Creuzot, "We're too revenge-oriented... Revenge is a very powerful emotion. So is anger, and it can get you into a place that you don't need to be in."

Blackburn gained fame for winning his case on the 1999 Tulia, Texas drug sting, where 46 men, 40 of them Black, were falsely arrested and jailed. Still, he said, change is slow for other jurisdictions.



#### James Lee Woodard

"All DNA does is it opens a window to these deep problems in our system," Blackburn said. "Only now, a few prosecutors are begrudgingly admitting that a few people might get falsely convicted. Nobody is willing to admit that.'

Withholding evidence that can prove one's innocence has been a consistent major problem. Blackburn said, out of the basic components of a court trial - the eyewitness, police officer, attorney and judge - it's common to see serious defects in at least two of them.

"You may have a weak eyewitness, but then you have a dishonest prosecutor who doesn't want his defense lawyer to know that he has a evewitness." weak Blackburn said. "You've got



James Giles

police not revealing what really happened with that identification. What we discover cleared. there is typically at least two glaring problems and there is almost always some really

bad behavior by the police or the prosecutors." Dees spoke of one sexual assault and murder case where a judge refused to clear his client because he did not want to embarrass the wife of the late district attornev who had the case. In another case, a detective held back evidence from a man on death row, who was saved by a key witness within hours of being executed. The witness just happened to read the story in the city's newspaper.

"That's the justice system working?" Dees said.

Woodard, the latest exoneree in Dallas County, was released on April 29 after serving 27 years for the rape and murder of his girlfriend. Chatman also spent 27 years in jail for aggravated rape.

Smith was serving 19 years of a life sentence for sexual assault before being released on December 2006. Both Giles and Waller served 10 years for aggravated rape and sexual assault charges, but had to register as sex of-

fenders for another 14 years before getting their names

Almost all of the six cases involved the alleged sexual assault of a White woman. In five of the six cases, the real perpetrator has never been caught, an added point of frustration for Waller.

(rate) was down in Texas, but because you were taking in-



BID OPENING: The bid opening will be held on Monday, June 16, 2008, at 10:00 AM (PST). in the Multipurpose Room at the Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Bids must be received at the Reception Desk of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, on or before Monday, June 16, 2008. Bids are timestamped upon receipt. Bids submitted must be time-stamped no later than 10:00 AM (PST) on the bid opening date. Bids time-stamped at 10:01 AM (PST) or after will be returned unopened to the Bidder.

Bidders and other interested parties are invited to attend the bid opening.

Bid documents will be available after 10:00 AM (PST), Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at the Reception Desk, Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Questions regarding this Invitation to Bid may be directed to Mary Hill, Graphic Supervisor, telephone number 702.507.3536. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT Published: Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice May 22, 2008

Waller said. "They said the crime had been solved, but you were leaving the guilty people out on the streets. That was the worst thing. They've been free all that time to do more crime."

nocent people off the street,"

Dees said revamping the justice system starts at the juvenile level. "We've got to stop this schoolhouse to jailhouse pipeline," he stated. He also pointed to the church. "The one voice that should be the strongest is the religious community. Many of them are out to lunch and don't get it. We need to be very mindful of the least among us and seek justice."

Watkins insisted on completely changing what it really means to be a district attorney or prosecutor.

"We need to not redefine what a D.A. is, but present a proper definition of what it needs to be today," Watkins justice."

Watkins' idea of a Conviction Integrity Unit was applauded. Getting better-paid lawyers for the defendants was recommended, paying them as close as possible to the prosecutors.

"Then it would be a different story," Dees said. "We need to stop being for the Dallas Examiner.

Bass

#### (Continued from Page 4)

dents who are saddled with debt when they finish college. We should be able to provide more opportunity than that for the next generation.

"California is a giant in crisis, and now it is up to us to solve that crisis. It is up to us to take the fear out of California's future."

Speaker Bass ended her speech by saying, "Thank you members. Let's get to work."

Jason Lewis writes for the Los Angeles Sentinel.



LAW OFFICES OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICT OF NEVADA

## Receptionist

The Federal Public Defender, District of Nevada, is accepting applications for the position of Receptionist. This is a full time position located in the Las Vegas office. Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, receiving, screening, referring and directing telephone calls and office clerical duties such as typing general correspondence, processing of mail, photocopying and faxing documents, court runs and other related duties as assigned. The qualified candidate must be a high school graduate or equivalent and have a minimum of two years general office experience, preferably in a law office environment. Spanish speaking preferred.

Please submit your resume by May 30, 2008 to: Kahren A. Dibble Administrative Officer Law Offices of the Federal Public Defender 411 E. Bonneville, Suite 250 Las Vegas, NV 89101 No Telephone Calls Please The Federal Public Defender is an equal opportunity employer. ned Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice - May 22, 2008

LAW OFFICES OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICT OF NEVADA POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant Federal Public Defender

The Federal Public Defender is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Trial Unit and the Non-Capital Habeas Unit. These are full-time positions located in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Trial Unit position includes representation of indigent persons charged with criminal offenses in the United States District Court and appellate representation in the Circuit Court of Appeals. Applicants must have criminal trial experience, a working knowledge of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and strong writing skills. The selected applicant should expect to defend the full range of federal criminal offenses, including violent, white collar and immigration crimes. The position requires travel for litigation and investigation.

The Non-Capital Habeas Unit represents state prisoners seeking federal habeas corpus relief in the U.S. District Court, the Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Applicants should have criminal trial experience, a working knowledge of Federal habeas corpus and appellate law, and strong writing skills. The position requires travel for client appointments, litigation, and investigation.

Applicant must be a member in good standing of a state bar. Salary is commensurate with experience and education and is equivalent to salaries for Assistant U.S. Attorneys with similar experience.

Application Deadline: June 13, 2008

Send resume, references, and two writing samples to: Kahren Dibble Administrative Officer Law Offices of the Federal Public Defender 411 E. Bonneville, Suite 250 Las Vegas, NV 89101 The Federal Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice - May 22, 2008

Perini Building Company, Inc. Request sub bids and material quotations from ALL qualified subcontractors and suppliers including MBE, DBE, WBE, SBE, SBDE and SMBE for the following project: McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, Nevada

Terminal 3 Building, Contract No. 2152 Bid Date: June 5, 2008 @ 1:30 PM

> Please Contact: PERINI BUILDING COMPANY, INC. Attn: Rich Gohl 360 East Coronado Road, Phoeniz, AZ 85004

Nevada License #0018335 & 00004382 (602) 256-6777 (Telephone) (602) 495-3301 (FAX) WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTNITY EMPLOYER

I-Voice - May 22, 200

said. "Mainstream media has distorted the definition of the D.A. They're in the business of selling newspapers. We're "Back then, the crime in the business of seeking