

# HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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February 12, 1997

**RUMA HAQUE**  
Board Attorney

James Jennings, Jr.  
127 Ross Road Extension  
P. O. Box 667  
Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114

Re: Hinds County, Mississippi - Complaint Concerning County Court Matters

Dear Mr. Jennings:

This is in response to your correspondence forwarded to me via facsimile yesterday, February 11, 1997, concerning your complaint of alleged malfeasance by County Court Judge Houston Patton, County Court Administrator Carolyn Broussard and former Assistant County Attorney Craig Bluntson. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors has no legal authority to regulate activities of the aforementioned County officials/employees. Consequently, we are unable to address your complaint.

County Court Judges are elected to County office in the manner provided by law and are not subject to oversight by other County elected officials. The County Court Administrator is an employee of the County Court Judges. She is appointed by the County Court Judges and serves at their will and pleasure. Her position is not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors or subject to the County personnel policies. Former Assistant County Attorney Craig Bluntson was an employee of the County (prosecuting) Attorney. The County Attorney is elected to County office in the manner provided by law and is not subject to oversight by other County elected officials. Assistant County Attorneys are appointed by the County Attorney and serve at his will and pleasure. Their positions are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors or subject to the County personnel policies. Your complaint should be directed to the appropriate County or State offices or agencies having jurisdiction over the activities of these individuals.

By copy of this letter, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Judge Patton, Ms. Broussard and Mr. Bluntson for any response they may deem appropriate. I am also forwarding a copy of your letter to the other present and former County elected officials mentioned therein for their information.

Sincerely,



Ruma Haque  
Board Attorney

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James Jennings, Jr.  
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Enclosure

cc: Hinds County Board of Supervisors  
Honorable Houston J. Patton, County Court Judge  
Carolyn K. Broussard, County Court Administrator  
Craig D. Bluntson, Esq.  
Raymond Bates  
Barbara Dunn, Circuit Clerk  
Honorable C. A. "Chet" Henley, Jr., County Court Judge  
Alice James, Chancery Clerk  
Joe B. Moss, County Attorney  
Roy DeBerry, County Administrator