

## **Statement from State Auditor Shad White on Aug. 12, 2024:**

“If Mike had had his way, he would have slow-walked a prosecution and cost taxpayers millions of additional welfare dollars. Before my time in office, the auditor’s office turned over a case to the feds involving the Mississippi Department of Education, and the feds took years to indict anyone and didn’t charge a single additional person beyond the people we’d identified as culprits. Neither the district attorney nor I were willing to watch that happen again here and watch more welfare money burn. We acted.

The truth, unfortunately, is that Mike was not a particularly good U.S. Attorney. Consider that he took a meeting with Nancy New while it was publicly known we were investigating her. He potentially turned himself into a witness in the process and did not launch his own investigation at the time. He did not put her on a wire to wear around other potential welfare fraudsters. He did nothing at all. If Mike is complaining that he wishes he would have had the chance to work on the case earlier, he could have acted then. He didn’t. In fact, by the end of Mike’s time as U.S. Attorney, he had taken no real action on the welfare case whatsoever.

Everyone knows why Mike is trying to criticize me and play Monday morning quarterback now. It’s because my book pointed out his sloppy, unprofessional behavior. Mike is a wannabe politician who knows the truth about this case threatens his ability to launch another failed run, so he’s mad. And people can read for themselves about what happened and decide what they think.

The same could be said for Lynn, because her handling of the case could end her career. She knows the book tells the truth about how she failed to prosecute a soul, failed to seize any property bought with stolen welfare money, and forced the state to hire private attorneys to get the welfare money back because she won’t do her job. That decision by Lazy Lynn has cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars and counting. Nothing the book says compromises the ability of the Jones Walker lawyers to get the welfare money back. I have a First Amendment right just like any other citizen to tell the story of what happened, and it’s even more important here because the story is a true and tragic tale of a scheme that cost taxpayers millions.”