

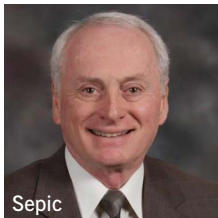
BUSTED! Gail Freehling, a juror in the unjust conviction of Rev. Edward Pinkney of Benton Harbor, MI, has been caught lying in court about her ties to local political and law enforcement figures.



Pinkney

This is **Reverend Edward Pinkney**, an internationally-respected civil rights activist from Benton Harbor, Michigan. After

successfully petitioning to recall the mayor of Benton Harbor, Pinkney's home was raided by a combat-equipped SWAT Team. He was arrested, charged and placed under months of house arrest.



Sepic

During Pinkney's trial, Berrien County, MI **Prosecutor Mike Sepic** presented no physical evidence nor

produced a single eyewitness to the alleged crime of tampering with the dates of five petitions, charges which Pinkney categorically denies.

Yet the **all-white jury** found the 66-year old pastor and activist guilty of five counts of election law violation. Prosecutor Sepic has expressed his desire for Pinkney to serve a life sentence.

There is a big story in Pinkney's case. That story ties together the agendas of free trade, deindustrialization, political corruption, denial of representative government, and even ethnic cleansing.

But for now we're going to focus on a small part of that story. We intend to show that Pinkney's prosecution is a house of cards built on lies, and to provide an example of the genuine institutionalized racism facing Black Americans who engage in politics.



Tyler

This is **Sharon Tyler**, the county clerk for Berrien County, and a key witness for the prosecution. Tyler has a good reason

to "Get Pinkney" – during her tenure as County Clerk and as a State Rep, Pinkney

spearheaded 11 recall petitions against Tyler, who he sees as an central cog in Berrien County's Whirlpool Corporation-controlled political machine.



Freehling

This is **Gail Freehling**, a resident of nearby Three Oaks, MI and a member of Pinkney's all-white jury.

Mrs. Freehling is in fact a very active resident of Three Oaks. She was the **Village Treasurer** from July 2013 to July 2014. She has been the **parade chairman** of the Three Oaks Flag Day Parade, the world's largest, since 2010. And finally, she has been the Chairwoman of the equally popular Three Oaks / River Valley Beauty **Pageant Committee**, the centerpiece of Berrien County's popular Blossomtime Festival, since 1991. By all appearances, Mrs. Freehling is a **prominent and well-connected figure** in Southwest Michigan.

During the jury selection process in Reverend Pinkney's trial, Gail Freehling and the other white jurors were **asked a few simple questions** to determine whether they had any bias in the case.

Specifically, Gail Freehling was asked **whether she personally knew County Clerk Sharon Tyler**, a key witness in the case, or had **any connection whatsoever to the Berrien County law enforcement community**. Both times, she denied any relationship.

GAIL FREEHLING LIED.



Bailey

As chairwoman of the Flag Day parade, she would have worked directly with both Clerk Sharon Tyler and **Berrien County Sheriff**

Paul Bailey, both featured participants

in the parade, from 2010 to 2014.



Kyra & Chuck Heit

As chairwoman of the Blossomtime Pageant for 23 years, Freehling would have worked with

Sheriff Paul Bailey and **Undersheriff Chuck Heit**, who both sit on the festival's board of directors.

Perhaps this is why Kyra Heit, the Undersheriff's daughter and Mrs. Freehling's Facebook friend, was crowned "Miss Blossomtime" in 2010.

Sharon Tyler is a regular participant in the Blossomtime parade, and has taken the Pageant stage to greet and congratulate the Miss Blossomtime winners. **Sharon Tyler is a Facebook friend of Gail Freehling.**

Gail Freehling lied to the defense and prosecuting attorneys, and to Judge Schrock. She deliberately hid her personal connections to County Clerk Sharon Tyler, a key witness in the case, and to top members of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department.

Aside from the criminal nature of Mrs. Freehling's actions, they **violated Reverend Pinkney's constitutional right to an impartial jury.**

After Pinkney's conviction, according to sworn eyewitness testimony, Sheriff Paul Bailey entered a county Republican meeting to declare triumphantly **"We Got Pinkney"**! This resulted in thunderous applause from the assembled, including County Clerk Sharon Tyler.

Where does the corruption in Berrien County end? We hope with Judge Sterling Schrock, who on December 15th has the opportunity to throw out this corrupt and unjust prosecution by a criminal network.

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