

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 Re: Anne Marie Vandenberghe

2 File: Vandenberghe vs. Parish of Jefferson

3

4 Ms. Vandenberghe: I have to record this.

5 Steve Theriot: [Unintelligible 00:12] I've asked you to come up because, uh, it has come
6 to my attention that all the things that I've been doing in Jefferson Parish,
7 this [Unintelligible 00:22] we have a... a number of items where you were
8 [Unintelligible 00:33] doing... for personal stuff during the course of, uh,
9 working. So what I've done, I've called the legislative auditor and tried to
10 keep in compliance with the issue that, uh, the U. S. Attorney is keeping in
11 terms of record keeping and I was a little concerned yesterday when I saw
12 your email about having your computer because we had not mirrored your
13 computer, so that's why last night we went to grab your computer because
14 I was concerned about any possible loss of information so... In fact the
15 auditor is on his way here now to pick up the computer. So from today
16 forward you will be on paid administrative leave until such time as the
17 auditor concludes whatever's the process that they do. Okay? And I guess
18 at that point I don't have... I don't know of anything else that I can tell
19 you. It just was concerning because this is a lot of sites during the course
20 of the [Unintelligible 01:38]. This should have been taken care of
21 [Unintelligible 01:40]

22 Ms. Vandenberghe: And will all that be made available to me?

23 Steve Theriot: Uh, I hope so. The legislative auditor, whatever they begin their process.
24 This is just a printout. We kept the [Unintelligible 01:51] I'm going to

25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 have to confer at that point with my legal counsel can kind of give me
2 some guidance with all that but we can get... be back in touch with you at
3 a later time.

4 Ms. Vandenberghe: Well, your legal counsel is sitting here now, so...

5 Steve Theriot: Well I...

6 Ms. Vandenberghe: ...am I going to have access to...

7 Clem Donelon: I haven't had...

8 Ms. Vandenberghe: ...what the charges are?

9 Clem Donelon: This is an ongoing investigation. If you make a public records request, we
10 will respond to it.

11 Ms. Vandenberghe: And am I going to get access to those documents that you are basing your
12 charges on?

13 Steve Theriot: I'm not basing any charges right now. What I am doing is... This is...
14 What I have in front of me is the concern, so therefore that was the reason
15 why. I have not made any solid decision. I have to ask the legislative
16 auditor to come in to review what's here for them to do their work. At the
17 conclusion of their report then we'll make some... we'll be able to make
18 some decisions, but at this point [Unintelligible 02:45]

19 Ms. Vandenberghe: Is this a pre-disciplinary hearing?

20 Steve Theriot: Pardon?

21 Ms. Vandenberghe: I'm asking your legal counsel.

22 Steve Theriot: Oh, okay.

23 Ms. Vandenberghe: Is this a pre-disciplinary hearing?
24
25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 Clem Donelon: Not to me it's not, and to me, I will tell you my position is that
2 unclassified employees are not entitled to pre-disciplinary hearings, but
3 that's my position.

4 Ms. Vandenweghe: Well that was not Mr. Gruntz's position with Mr. Whitmer so there
5 already is discriminatory action.

6 Clem Donelon: It is my position. Whether this is a pre-disciplinary hearing or not is
7 another matter and whether or not there is a pre-disciplinary hearing that
8 may follow is another matter.

9 Ms. Vandenweghe: So this is not a pre-disciplinary hearing? What is this then?

10 Clem Donelon: A meeting.

11 Ms. Vandenweghe: About? Putting me on paid administrative leave.

12 Clem Donelon: Yes.

13 Ms. Vandenweghe: And that's not a disciplinary action?

14 Clem Donelon: Not with me it isn't, and under the personnel rules it's not.

15 Steve Theriot: It is not an appealable action if you are in classified service.

16 Ms. Vandenweghe: You are entitled to your opinion but not your facts.

17 Steve Theriot: Well...

18 Ms. Vandenweghe: Anything further, gentleman?

19 Steve Theriot: The only thing that... The only other thing I needed to ask you that if you,
20 in fact, had a personal laptop computer or any other device that you might
21 have downloaded any public information... parish information?

22 Ms. Vandenweghe: I have a external hard drive that we use to return documents to the Feds
23 and to the media - my personal hard drive that I had to pay for because
24
25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 there was no money, according to Mr. Wilkinson. So I discussed that with
2 Louis... Is that correct, Louis?

3 Louis Gruntz: Yes.

4 Ms. Vandenberghe: I'd like to identify all the parties in here today. Would you all identify
5 yourselves, please?

6 Junior Mendoza: Junior Mendoza.

7 Bert Smith: Bert Smith.

8 Deano Bonano: Deano Bonano.

9 Steve Theriot: Steve Theriot.

10 Jose Gonzalez: Jose Gonzalez.

11 Louis Gruntz: Louis Gruntz.

12 Clem Donelon: Clement Donelon.

13 Ms. Vandenberghe: Okay. Louis?

14 Louis Gruntz: Yeah, you did have a, uh, personal hard drive that we would use in the
15 office for...

16 Ms. Vandenberghe: And did you approve that?

17 Louis Gruntz: Yeah.

18 Ms. Vandenberghe: Anything further?

19 Steve Theriot: Well, again, on that hard drive... external hard drive that you purchased,
20 I'd be happy to reimburse you for it, but I'm asking if it's all strictly parish
21 information, uh, would that be left behind?

22 Ms. Vandenberghe: It is not strictly parish information and it will not be left behind, but I'm
23 sure when you all are ready you can request it the way I'm going to
24 request the records that I want from this hearing today. I would ask that a
25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 litigation hold be placed immediately on all the documents that you have
2 based your decision on today to put me on paid administrative leave and I
3 would like to see the litigation hold letter that goes out. I will be
4 requesting that. And I will want to know where the documents are being
5 held. I will want my computer placed on a litigation hold.

6 Steve Theriot: The legislative auditors have your computer.

7 Ms. Vandenberghe: That does not relieve the parish of the obligation to put a litigation hold
8 out.

9 Steve Theriot: Again, I'll, uh, I'll confer with legal counsel for some guidance.

10 Ms. Vandenberghe: Anything further?

11 Steve Theriot: Are you... What about the other computers that were in your possession?

12 Ms. Vandenberghe: They are in the file cabinet, which is why the office was locked.

13 Steve Theriot: Which is... Is that the one for Whitmer and for...

14 Ms. Vandenberghe: I don't know who they are for. I have two laptop computers that Ridley
15 placed in the file cabinet in my office.

16 Steve Theriot: What do you have on your own personal computer of the parish?

17 Ms. Vandenberghe: I don't have a personal computer.

18 Clem Donelon: Well, what you are suggesting...

19 Steve Theriot: On the external hard drive.

20 Clem Donelon: On the hard drive. Do you know what it is?

21 Ms. Vandenberghe: I have no idea. Whatever was downloaded by the various people here. But
22 then I had my own pictures and all the work that I do on it.

23 Clem Donelon: Can you give us a list of what is on the hard drive that is parish?

24 Ms. Vandenberghe: I'm sure that you'll be able to subpoena that whenever you need to.
25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 Steve Theriot: Well, you're an employee at this time and you're on paid leave and...

2 Clem Donelon: Mr. Theriot said he wants to know what's on your computer that's parish
3 property. I think as an employee you have an obligation to cooperate with
4 that request.

5 Ms. Vandenberghe: As a whistleblower I also have rights...

6 Clem Donelon: You do.

7 Ms. Vandenberghe: ...and you all have obligations and responsibilities.

8 Clem Donelon: This is true.

9 Ms. Vandenberghe: So for that reason, I am going to respectfully decline to give you any
10 information at this time.

11 Clem Donelon: Your whistleblower status doesn't insulate you, Mary Ann...

12 Ms. Vandenberghe: Anne Marie.

13 Clem Donelon: ...Anne Marie, from your requirements as an employee. You still have
14 obligations as an employee.

15 Ms. Vandenberghe: I'm on paid administrative leave at this time?

16 Steve Theriot: No, you're...

17 Ms. Vandenberghe: I will consult with my counsel and I will advise you of my decision.

18 Steve Theriot: [Unintelligible 07:47] responsibility [Unintelligible 07:49] notify the U. S.
19 Attorney that you have property of the parish that you're taking off with
20 you and not resolved with the parish.

21 Ms. Vandenberghe: And what property would that be?

22 Steve Theriot: The information that's on that hard drive.

23 Ms. Vandenberghe: I was not... I was asked to do that.

24
25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 Steve Theriot: I understand. I'm just telling you that if in fact you're telling me that you
2 have information on that hard drive...

3 Ms. Vandenberghe: Mmhm.

4 Steve Theriot: ...I was directed by the U. S. Attorney to make sure that I protect all of
5 those records and documents. I will [Unintelligible 08:17] and inform him
6 [Unintelligible 08:19].

7 Ms. Vandenberghe: The U. S. Attorney has all of those documents. They mirrored my
8 computer and they have everything that is on that hard drive.

9 Steve Theriot: I understand.

10 Ms. Vandenberghe: So you can certainly contact the U. S. Attorney.

11 Steve Theriot: I most certainly will. I mean, in order to comply with the...with the prior,
12 uh, letter or at least the...

13 Ms. Vandenberghe: They are already aware of this hearing and they have requested that
14 anything I have I give to them.

15 Steve Theriot: Look [Unintelligible 08:50] first of all...

16 Ms. Vandenberghe: So I...

17 Steve Theriot: ...I expect that you do.

18 Ms. Vandenberghe: I will certainly speak with them before I would leave anything.

19 Steve Theriot: Oh, I'd love it. Please do. Please do so. That's absolutely correct. Believe
20 me, I would encourage you if you think that you might have, uh, that
21 would assist them in the pursuit of what they're doing but it would seem to
22 me that you would be obligated to. I mean, I would hope that you do.

23 Ms. Vandenberghe: Which is what I have been doing.

24 Steve Theriot: So... So we can [Unintelligible 09:13] all... all through this.

25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 Ms. Vandenberghe: Which is exactly what I have been doing, Mr. Theriot, and if you have
2 been given any information to the contrary you may want to speak with
3 Amy Ford at the U. S. Attorney's office.

4 Steve Theriot: You mean at the FBI?

5 Ms. Vandenberghe: Well, she works with the U. S. Attorney. So you can talk to Greg
6 Kennedy, you can talk to Brian Klebba, and you can talk to the FBI, and I
7 would strongly urge you to do that.

8 Steve Theriot: I already have.

9 Ms. Vandenberghe: Anything further?

10 Steve Theriot: No. I think they'll, uh, Judy will process you out so we can, uh... and then
11 they'll escort you to your office and you can take whatever personal items
12 you need to take out today.

13 Ms. Vandenberghe: I have quite a few personal items. It will take me some time to do that.

14 Steve Theriot: That's fine, we'll make arrangements, uh, if it's today or beyond today or
15 whatever the case may be.

16 Ms. Vandenberghe: It won't take me more than that.

17 Steve Theriot: Sure.

18 Ms. Vandenberghe: I've been packed for a while. I expected this. Louis, I'm going to stop on
19 the 7th floor and get the cart so that I can load all of my things in it.
20 Anything further, gentlemen?

21 Steve Theriot: No, I think that's all.

22 [Chairs moving across floor]

23 Ms. Vandenberghe: You ready Charles?

24 Charles Knopp: I'm ready when you are.

25

The Truitt Law Firm
A Limited Liability Company
CONFIDENTIAL

1 Ms. Vandenberghe: Let's go. Nice job Deano.

2 [door creaking]

3 [End of Interview]

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25