

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
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TONY F. MOORE, CLERK
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

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6 June 2014

Hon. Richard T. Haik, Sr.
United States District Judge
Western District of Louisiana
Lafayette Division
800 Lafayette St., Suite 4200
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
(337) 593-5100

10-CV-1557
RTH/RJA

Dear Judge Haik:

It has come to our attention over the years, that the firm of opposing counsel Laborde & Neuner, has provided you with certain things of value, including but not only tickets to athletic events, Mardi Gras functions, and other social activities as well as travel to and tuition when applicable for judicial conferences, bar association functions, and continuing legal education.

While certain of these gifts may not be illegal, they are of concern when a judge subsequently awards that gift-giving firm sanctions and attorney fees which are not warranted or not applicable under Rule 11 and the related jurisprudence.

The United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal recently set aside the attorney fees and costs you awarded in the later Webb case, noting that your order did not contain law applicable to Rule 11.

These gifts or contributions given by the Laborde & Neuner firm or any of the firms involved in the Webb cases, should have been disclosed to us, as there appear to be other instances in your court when an opposing party does not prevail and you have awarded this firm or other gift-giving firms significant attorney fees and costs.

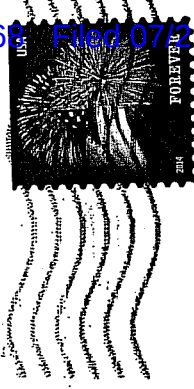
When the award of attorneys fees and costs comply with the provisions of Federal Rule 11 and the facts established at a hearing on the matters, require the assessment of such fees, then they would be appropriate but there has never been a hearing on such matters and you have simply dismissed each of the cases involving the Webbs, always prior to discovery, and awarded fees which the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal has found unwarranted and overturned. We request a conference on this concern as well as the identification and production of all things of value given to you by this firm or any other, particularly those to which you have awarded attorney fees and costs.

Sincerely yours,

DAVE G. ABEL

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cc. [Confidential Delivery]
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