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Ronald Richards Rescues OC Victim of "The System"

Posted By [jackyjasper](#) On December 13, 2009 @ 17:54 In [Race Relations](#), [Ronald Richards](#) | [2 Comments](#)

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Judge & D.A. Slam Pregnant Victim of Violence



A pregnant California woman at the center of a domestic violence case is being slammed by the state after refusing to testify against her alleged attacker. What is even worse, she is a pregnant and African American while the prosecutor is a blond haired blue eyed suburban housewife in Orange County and the Judge is Caucasian. Does this matter? It just seems odd that the alleged advocate of a crime victim would want to keep fining a woman until the Court throws her in jail. There is no other case that could be found where a crime victim was repeatedly harassed by the District Attorney's office. Even if race has nothing to do with it, these parental officials are very insensitive to a single pregnant mother who is obviously under stress and is trying to do what she believes is best for the future of her unborn child. Is the DA's office trying to cause a miscarriage of this baby or justice?

Six-and-a-half month pregnant, Kelly Bryan will be looking at jail time if she doesn't fork out \$2,000 dollars to the court, and show-up at her charged perpetrator's arraignment hearing. Bryan says she was exercising her 5th Amendment right, during the preliminary hearing and taking advantage of the statute. Now, she's appealing the court's contempt ruling against her. The Court of Appeal fortunately issued a stay late Thursday thanks to Los Angeles attorney and civil rights' #1 defender [Ronald Richards](#) ^[4] coming to her rescue.

Bryan's attorney for her appeal says the court's decision for issuing her contempt citation holds no merit. "Ordering Ms. Bryan, the alleged victim of Mr. Robinson, to appear at his arraignment is plain harassment and undermines the statute," Ronald Richards said in his writ. "Even the defendant's public defender objected to this harassment." Well known Los Angeles attorney Ronald Richards became involved after getting a personal request from ABC's News Legal Analyst Dana Cole. Richards took the case for copy costs only and worked all night to have a writ of certiorari filed to the Court of Appeal for the 4th District requesting a stay of the contempt charge.

Richards responded when we contacted him by saying, "What happened in this case is frankly, appalling. Doing cases like this for needy people who are being wronged is exactly the reason why I became an attorney. When I received the stay from the Court of Appeal, I welled up. It was a privilege to represent Ms. Bryan."

During the court proceedings in question, council for Bryan's baby daddy and alleged attacker, Richard Carmona, contested the prosecution's treatment of Bryan while she was on the witness stand. "Although I do not represent Ms. Bryan, It appears she's being — the prosecution here is using

the court's power to financially punish her as a way of victimizing her," Richard Carmona said. "She seems to be — every time she comes to court it's a thousand dollars, or it's going to be a long community service...the woman is pregnant here."

Orange County Superior Court Judge Matthew Anderson, who is incidentally the supervising judge of the Harbor Justice Center, imposed a pair of consecutive one thousand dollar fines on Bryan after she exercised her right not to testify against the man who allegedly abused her. He later denied requests to continue to impose fines on Bryan. "I won't engage in what I think is really a contortion of what we're attempting to do here," Judge Anderson said. If the prosecution on the case had their way, Bryan could be looking at a much heavier fine. "Our request is that the witness, Ms. Bryan, be fined the maximum penalty per day, which is \$1,000, and that she be ordered to return tomorrow to testify," District Attorney Heidi Garrel said. "And if she does not testify tomorrow, the court fine her another \$1,000 tomorrow, and continue doing that until she agrees to testify." Is Ms. Garrel helping victims of crime or is she the most out to lunch prosecutor since Mike Nifong? (Disgraced Duke student's prosecutor)

Bryan's contempt charges come just over a year after a bill to protect domestic violence victims from being forced to testify against their attackers was born. In a letter to the Senate, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger addresses what's known as Senate Bill 1356. "I believe that the victims in these cases have suffered enough, and that the decision to testify in these types of cases should be made by the individuals most impacted by these crimes," Governor Schwarzenegger wrote. "SB 1356 ensures that victims of domestic violence have the same statutory protections as sexual assault victims and exempts them from the threat of being incarcerated for refusal to testify against their perpetrators."

San Francisco/San Mateo Senator Leland Yee has announced his backing of SB 1356. "This three year effort to protect domestic violence victims from re-victimization through forced testimony, imprisonment or community service now has significant momentum," Senator Lee stated. "Without this new law, those kids (of domestic abuse victims) will continue to be put at risk and may be unfairly and unnecessarily pushed into foster care."

Many agree that victims of domestic violence who have been charged with contempt for exercising their right to not testify against their attackers, is a form of unnecessary abuse. It's very arguable that the preliminary hearing against Matthew Robinson was spent re-victimizing the alleged victim of a reported violent individual through forced testimony.

Robinson is being charged with felony domestic battery causing injury charges. He's being held on a \$200,000 bond. He is scheduled to be back in court for an arraignment hearing on December 14th. That's when Kelly Bryan is forced to appear, or be locked-up.

[Appeal Writ \[Ronald Richards\]](#) ^[5]

[Court Transcript](#) ^[6] (documenting Abuse of the victim by both Prosecutor & Judge)

[Stay Granted by Appeals Court](#) ^[7]

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