



## Governor's pardon (continued from page 2)

When the wronged children's biological father questioned Meenan's actions, Meenan began to make things right for his stepchildren. Not before.

The die was cast as far back as 2003, insofar as officials trying to cover for Kevin Meenan. In the Board of Professional Responsibility document, a justification for the District Attorney's criminal conduct was suggested in that Meenan had financial responsibility for four children and that, during the time of his thefts, his father had died.

I would challenge Kevin Meenan to provide me one case that he prosecuted to a conviction or guilty plea in which he allowed such "hardships" to be mitigating circumstances at sentencing. Just one.

The Board also offered: "In spite of full repayment of the funds, the insistence of Micah and RK that all issues were family money management issues and their request that the investigation be terminated, charges were filed against Kevin Meenan. You cannot return the money to 7-11 and erase robbery charges.

Meenan applied pressure to have charges dismissed. Pat Crank, who was AG at the time, refused to play a role in the case as he and Meenan were "friends." When Crank appointed a special prosecutor who happened to be a defense attorney from Casper, Frank Chapman, Meenan wanted him disqualified because of bias against him. Meenan once objected to the dismissal of a potential juror in the Johnny Lopez trial - an individual who had babysat for Meenan's children. When the shoe is on the other foot, he doesn't want anyone who might show favoritism or bias to sit on his jury. Because of Meenan's closeness to the judges in Natrona County, Goshen County District Court Judge Keith Kautz heard the case.

In addition to his criminal behavior, Meenan put his stepchildren in the unenviable position of having to support his efforts to avoid prosecution. What were they to do? The guy had married their mother and, because of his celebrity in Casper, given them attention they otherwise would not have had. Meenan, had

become Natrona County Republican Party Chair shortly before his illegal conduct became public knowledge.

Even after the stepdaughter's biological father (and she) challenged Meenan about the insurance settlement, he continued to lie about the amount. From an early claim of it being "well above \$20,000," Meenan finally told his stepdaughter the amount was \$40,000. In fact, he settled with her for \$33,000, deducting \$7,000 he had paid on her credit card for schooling she had received in Europe. Whether that was the deal from the beginning is not in the record. Neither is there any reflection that interest was paid on the \$55,000 that was the actual State Farm settlement paid and deposited into his trust account, then used for Kevin Meenan's personal purposes.

Meenan admitted stealing his stepchildren's identity and/or money and then "forced" them into saying it was all right - that he was a good guy and even if he broke the law, he should not be prosecuted.

Because of his position as a District Attorney, he should have been prosecuted on every charge, not have most of them dismissed for his guilty plea on only three of the charges. He was able to skate in a way that few defendants he prosecuted, maybe on the same charges, were allowed.

There are few more serious fiduciary responsibilities more critical than those to your own children - and Meenan and the Board portray the stepchildren as Meenan's "children" when he had no biological or legal connection to them. He, incidentally, did not steal from his blood children - just the stepchildren. It seems that he could have acquired credit cards for his daughter and son without their knowledge and done the same thing he did to his stepson - write and deposit credit checks from a credit card account the stepson did not know had been issued in his name. But Meenan chose only to cheat his stepchildren. Meenan was even in arrears on the credit card account in the name of his stepson in December of 2002. That is how the stepson learned of the deceit - his credit had been adversely affected by Meenan's late payments.

Meenan could keep his stepdaughter in the dark about the insurance settlement amount because of promising her he had invested the funds and the full amount would be turned over to her "upon her graduation" from college.

In another attempt to minimize the criminality of a fellow attorney, the Board of Professional Responsibility offered: "The alleged victims of this activity were Kevin Meenan's children, not clients, business associates or (otherwise) involved with Kevin Meenan in a professional sense."

Isn't that how you define victims of incest? Does that make the stepdaughter any less the victim than had Meenan stolen from a partner or a client? Of course not.

The document included: "Kevin Meenan pleaded guilty to one count of each of these charges on December 15, 2003." That admission preceded the paragraph about "alleged victims" so the Board knew those children were not "alleged" victims - that they were real victims. That their stepfather had admitted to committing criminal conduct against them. Theft.

Even though Kevin Meenan had been charged with a dozen felony charges and a single misdemeanor, the Board disclosed: "On December 11, 2003, Meenan entered into a Plea Agreement in the Seventh Judicial District Court, Natrona County, Wyoming, and pled guilty to one charge of forgery, one charge of unauthorized use of personal identifying information, and one charge of official misconduct." His plea agreement did not include the most serious criminal behavior - stealing his stepdaughter's insurance settlement funds, all \$55,000.00 of them.

Note that the Board first wrote that Meenan pled guilty to two charges, then just a few lines later revealed the truth - he pled guilty to three counts - two felonies and one misdemeanor.

So, he got away with using his stepdaughter's insurance settlement for personal expenses. The felonies involved the credit card and the misdemeanor was for acting as Micah's attorney in the insurance matter. The ever-loyal child told the Board "that as the 'victim' of the charges, she did not desire that Mr. Meenan be convicted of a Felony or that he lose his license to practice law." She just did not want to see the distinction that a District Attorney must obey and apply the law, not flaunt it as Meenan had.

The stepson expressed the same sentiments. To suggest they were coached or coerced by a man of the character of Kevin Meenan is unnecessary.

In spite of Meenan's obvious and confessed illegal behavior, the Board continued to try to defend and exonerate his criminal behavior. "In addition to his duties as an attorney and as the elected Seventh Judicial District Attorney, Meenan has served his community and profession in numerous capacities. He has taught numerous state prosecutor and law enforcement courses in Wyoming and has lectured and taught courses for the National College of District Attorneys, the National Advocacy Center in South Carolina and at Casper College and the University of Wyoming." And he was a thief.

There is no question that Kevin Meenan knew that his actions were criminal. He would not have signed his stepson's name to the credit card application nor wrote credit checks and signed his stepson's name, then deposited those checks into his personal account, had he thought those actions were legal and proper. He would not have represented his stepdaughter in the insurance matter, knowing such representation was illegal, and he would not have deposited a \$55,000 settlement check into his trust account and then write check after check against that amount. And he would not have withheld the amount of the settlement from his stepdaughter had he believed his withdrawals and spending of her funds "on family matters" was legal.

If you want to read excellent coverage of this matter, primarily from Tom Morton, go to the Casper Star-Tribune website and search the archives for "Kevin Meenan." Tom has been one of the top two or three investigative reporters in Wyoming and he did a great job on this story. The details he provided about Meenan's despicable behavior then his attempt to beat the rap are informative and interesting.

By the way, the Wyoming Bar Association Board of Professional Responsibility recommended it be only three years until Meenan could apply for reinstatement from his disbarment. The Wyoming Supreme Court did not accept that recommendation and imposed a five year wait on this scheming, manipulative jerk. The governor's pardon was highly inappropriate and Dave's faith in this guy is misplaced and will come back to bite him on the rear end. He's a crook. Period.

**Herald -- n. An officer whose business was to proclaim war ... He was invested with a sacred and inviolable character. A proclaimer; one who publishes or announces; A forerunner; a precursor; a harbinger. v. To introduce, or give tidings of ... To proclaim, to announce, to foretell, to usher**

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