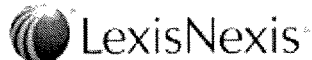


# EXHIBIT 7

To Affidavit of Amanda L. Bush



353 of 589 DOCUMENTS

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**DallasNews.com**  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

November 6, 2006 Monday  
FIRST EDITION

**SECTION:** SPORTS DAY; Pg. 4C**LENGTH:** 670 words**HEADLINE:** Nelson set Mavs in motion Coach returns to face team that owes part of its turnaround to him**BYLINE:** EDDIE SEFKO, Staff Writer**BODY:**

Dirk Nowitzki would be loving life, paired with Michael Redd and leading the Milwaukee Bucks to playoff glory under George Karl.

The sideline would be a lot quieter, the Cajun drawl of Avery Johnson absent because he'd be pulling his coaching strings somewhere else.

And the Mavericks might still be known as the worst franchise in pro sports.

It's not a stretch to think that all of those things could have happened if not for Don Nelson landing in Dallas in 1997. The Mavericks had won 50 games the previous two seasons. That's not even an acceptable single season these days.

They were working on a string of seven consecutive losing seasons.

So on his first day of work, Nelson waived Oliver Miller. He figured if you're going to start trimming fat, start with the fattest.

Tonight, nearly a decade after he joined the basketball wasteland that was the Mavericks, Nelson returns for the first time coaching another team, the Golden State Warriors. It's fitting that the Western Conference championship banner - won mostly with players he acquired and coached - will be unveiled in the rafters of American Airlines Center with Nelson in the arena.

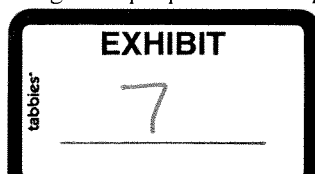
"I'll be the proudest guy in the building," Nelson said Sunday.

Donnie Nelson, the coach's son and president of basketball operations for the Mavericks, said the decision to raise the banner tonight was made before Nelson joined the Warriors. "I think a lot of people don't understand that," he said.

There will be those who see the timing of the event as a poke in Nelson's side. Others will point to his legal battle against Mark Cuban over deferred money. Cuban declined to comment about Nelson's return.

But no matter the circumstances of Nelson's departure from the Mavs, he deserves to be toasted tonight as much as the team that provided all the thrills last season before losing to Miami in the NBA Finals.

"If Nellie wasn't part of this operation, where would it be?" assistant coach Del Harris said. "You've got the history. He brought in Avery. His son is the president. It's fitting. And people shouldn't put any negativity into it."



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MORNING NEWS November 6, 2006 Monday

Nelson will leave it to others to determine his legacy in Dallas. But he can look back with a smile at what the Mavericks accomplished under his watch.

"I thought I did a pretty good job," he said.

Johnson said he doesn't expect to hear a single boo from the crowd tonight. He also will have a tug at his heart-strings.

"He's been a huge part of getting this franchise back in the right direction," said Johnson, who believes his life would have taken a markedly different path had it not intersected with Nelson. "Yeah, I can make that argument. Had I not been in that trade, who knows what would happen. He's definitely been an instrumental part of my career and my life, on and off the court."

Emotions will run deep for Nelson, too, after his nine years with the Mavs, a long term of employment by NBA standards.

Harris has gone through similar moments when he returned as a coach of a different team. He was in Houston, Milwaukee and Los Angeles and all of those places are still special when he goes back. But there's no time like the first return trip.

"Yeah, if you're there a long time, it is a big deal," he said. "It's just special. You leave something of you behind wherever you go. You'd like to hope that people think you did a good job - the best you could do - regardless of what the record is when you leave."

The down side of tonight's encounter is that the teams still have to play. Golden State "can't beat anybody right now," in Nelson's words.

That's not true. They're 1-2, which gives them one more win than the 0-2 Mavericks.

"They're probably glad to see us coming," Nelson said.

The same could be said for fans at tonight's game in regard to Nelson.

"We certainly wouldn't be where we are without him," Donnie Nelson said. "We were in a pretty rough stretch, and he was beckoned off the island to come try and resurrect this thing.

"And the proof's in the pudding. It pretty much speaks for itself."

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**GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S):** (BEN MARGOT/Associated Press) Former Mavericks coach Don Nelson returns to Dallas with Keith McLeod and the Golden State Warriors tonight.

**LOAD-DATE:** November 9, 2006