MONTANA TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT 09:05:06 RAVALLI COUNTY 2 3 MICHAEL E. SPREADBURY 4 Plaintiff, 5 Cause No. DV-10-222 6 vs. 7 ANGELA B. WETZSTEON and GEORGE H. CORN, 8 Defendants. 9 10 Taken at the Ravalli County Courthouse 205 Bedford Street, Hamilton, Montana 11 Friday, August 6, 2010 12 13 The Honorable Jeffrey H. Langton Presiding. 14 15 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 16 17 APPEARANCES: 18 Plaintiff, MICHAEL E. SPREADBURY, appearing pro . 19 For the Defendants: 20 MICHAEL R. KING Special Assistant Attorney General 21 Risk Management and Tort Defense Division 22 1625 11th Avenue, Middle Floor P.O. Box 200124 23 Helena, MT 59620-0124 24 Reported by Tamara Stuckey 25 Official Court Reporter, State of Montana.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2010 09:05:21

The first case we're going to THE COURT: hear this morning is the Spreadbury v. Wetzsteon and That's a motion for summary judgment. Mr. King.

> Yes, Your Honor. MR. KING:

THE COURT: This is your motion.

MR. KING: Yes.

THE COURT: And typically, the way I hear motions, this is not what a full-blown argument would be in the Montana Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court. It's more like the Ninth Circuit. I allow about 10 or 15 minutes for each side to mention any point that you think needs mentioning, either it's reemphasizing something in your brief or responding to something in the other briefs. My rules during this hearing, as in all hearings, are that nobody is going to interrupt the party presenting, even if you might have an objection. You can raise that in your argument. It's your motion, Mr. King, so you get to begin and you get to close. Mr. Spreadbury, you are in the middle. And so he has the burden, Mr. King does, and he will argue twice; you will argue once. Mr. King.

MR. KING: Thank you, Your Honor. As this Court may know, this case arises out of Mr. Spreadbury's criminal prosecution on August 8th of 2006 in the

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09:47:30 25 Ravalli County Justice Court. Mr. Spreadbury alleges, as I understand his Amended Complaint, that the Ravalli County Attorney's Office did four things that entitle him to monetary and injunctive relief from and against Angela Wetzsteon and George Corn. All four of those things, those allegations, lack merit.

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The first allegation, as I understand, in the Amended Complaint is that Mr. Spreadbury alleges that Angela Wetzsteon presented evidence during Mr. Spreadbury's criminal trial that the Ravalli County Attorney's Office did not provide to him prior to trial in a timely basis this. This allegation lacks merit because a prosecutor's alleged failure to provide discovery in a timely manner involves a prosecutorial function for which Miss Wetzsteon and Mr. Corn enjoy prosecutorial immunity. And Mr. Spreadbury in that regard has cited no legal authorities to the contrary.

Ravalli County Attorney's Office filed a motion to continue his trial to a period of time when he would be out of town, thus in some way causing Justice Bailey or Justice of the Peace Bailey to issue a Warrant for his arrest for his failure to appear at the trial. This allegation lacks merit because filing motions, particularly motions for continuance, again, is a

prosecutorial function for which Mr. Corn and Miss 1 09:49:12 Wetzsteon have prosecutorial immunity. And again, Mr. Spreadbury has cited no legal authorities to the 3 contrary. In addition, Mr. Spreadbury hasn't produced any evidence that -- showing that Angela Wetzsteon or George Corn in any way participated in Judge Bailey's

issuance of the Arrest Warrant.

And finally, the Arrest Warrant was issued -- it was issued by Judge Bailey. It's facially valid. There's no evidence to the contrary. And in any event, to the extent Mr. Spreadbury is asserting a false arrest charge, it's clearly barred by the two-year statute of limitations.

His third allegation alleges that the Ravalli County Attorney's Office misrepresented the spelling of Angela Wetzsteon's last name to Mr. Spreadbury's unspecified detriment. I'm not sure what kind of a claim this is, but the best I could make of it was that it was a misrepresentation claim, and the Affidavits -- the undisputed affidavit testimony of Angela Wetzsteon and George Corn shows that they didn't intend by any such misspelling of Angela Wetzsteon's last name to cause him any harm. Mr. Spreadbury certainly hasn't produced any facts, let alone specific facts, to the contrary.

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Fourthly, Mr. Spreadbury alleges that as a 09:50:50 1 result of the first three allegations, Miss Wetzsteon 09:50:55 and Mr. Corn intentionally inflicted emotional distress 09:50:57 3 Obviously, if the first three allegations 09:51:01 lack merit, as they do, then his fourth allegation, 09:51:04 intentional infliction of emotional distress, lacks 09:51:07 But more than that, you can't maintain in merit. 09:51:11 Montana a claim for intentional inflection of emotional 09:51:15 09:51:20 distress when you are legally entitled to do what you have done, and everything that George Corn and Angela 10 09:51:23 Wetzsteon have done in this case, they are legally 09:51:27 11 entitled to do as prosecutors for the State of Montana. 12 09:51:30 09:51:34 13 14 09:51:38

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So all four of Mr. Spreadbury's allegations of wrongdoing in this case lack merit. As a result of that, this Court should grant George Corn's and Angela Wetzsteon's Motions For Summary Judgment and dismiss Mr. Spreadbury's Amended Complaint with prejudice.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Spreadbury.

MR. SPREADBURY: Thank you, Your Honor. If it pleases the Court, I'd also like to thank the judge for coming down to Ravalli County Twenty-First District. I do have a few things I'd like to say. Angela Wetzsteon, on August 8th, 2007 -- not 2006 -- was unauthorized to practice law. She was not licensed.

She was licensed 10/9/08, is the date, so it's October 9th of 2008, which is prior to that date. There is also attorney witnesses, my retained attorney, that Miss Wetzsteon was practicing without supervision, which is in violation of the Student Practice Act issued by the Montana Supreme Court April 30th, 1975. Without those items, a bar license, swearing an oath to the Constitution and the third item that I mentioned, unsupervised, she has no immunity.

Just like I stand in front of you here today. I'm not a prosecutor. This is a civil proceeding. I don't want to get off track, but a student, unsupervised, without a bar license has no -- in the words of Mr. King, he used "legally entitled." That's not the case whatsoever. In fact, his office is charged with the duty of protecting the public from unauthorized practice of law, and here he is protecting somebody who did engage in the unauthorized practice of law.

I submitted to the Court, and I just gave a copy -- a second copy to opposing counsel. Here is a certified receipt for my Complaint. Would you like to see this, Your Honor? It was within the docket. You may have already see it.

THE COURT: It's already in the file.

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MR. SPREADBURY: It is. You can see it if you like.

In terms of George Corn as a supervisor or in an administrator function, the Montana Supreme Court, in 1995, in Kelman v. Losleben, says that a prosecutor is not entitled to immunity engaged in administrative duties. If he was sitting at his desk right over here and Angela Wetzsteon was downstairs in the Justice Courts, outside of the speedy trial time period, eight months into a trial, I don't see how George Corn is entitled to any immunity whatsoever. He assigned Angela to the case and that's an administrative duty. The Supreme Court has already determined, Your Honor, that there is no immunity. There is no civil liability immunity in that situation.

I'll continue. The other thing, is as you said in the beginning, the defense counsel, Michael King, from the attorney General's Office has the burden here -- and I do realize he has a rebuttal to my statement. However it's a well-established fact, in Morley and Walker in the Ninth Circuit in 1999 -- I have a printout of it right here -- "an official seeking immunity bears the burden of demonstrating that immunity attaches to a particular function." I haven't seen any segment of this 2007 case where Angela Wetzsteon in

front of a justice of the peace or George Corn, wherever 1 he was, not in the courtroom, how that is entitled to immunity. So I just stated a case. I just read from 3 the case that says that the prosecutors have the burden of showing both reasonableness, sir, Your Honor, and that the specific task is entitled to immunity. I'd go ahead and say that George Corn assigning a non-bar-licensed, non-supervised student is not a reasonable decision to be made by a prosecutor. 9 10 that's my argument why there isn't immunity -- there's no immunity assigned to this. 11

Mr. King would like the Court to think that none of my claims were intentional -- for intentional distress have any merit. There's a photo that I think he was talking about or some evidence he was talking If something is given outside of the Rules of about. Criminal Procedure, otherwise known as discovery, that is outside of the Rules of Evidence, and so that's not something where a counsel can say this was -- I call it tampered evidence, which is what it was. actually altered. Someone scratched their own face. Ιt altered my life to where my career with a very well-established path was purposely and intentionally destroyed, and that's what these IIED cases are all about, is that emotional distress occurred and they were

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done intentionally. I would say that assigning a prosecutor, without a license, unsupervised, violating the act of the Supreme Court would be an intentional

act. That's an intentional act.

Like I said before, that case, October 8th, 2008, the appearance was January 5th, so that's outside of speedy trial completely. It's a misdemeanor. only that, if I had a retained attorney, Sasha Brownlee, in the courtroom for me, there's no need for a judge to sign a Failure to Appear Warrant, and if Angela Wetzsteon were in the courtroom, there's no -- she has a duty as an officer of the Court, and if she's certified by her dean, which she is, for two years of competent legal school, she would know that that is her duty to say, Your Honor, the Defendant may not be here -- this is a misdemeanor trial. It's a well-established fact in this Court and in this state that there is no crime of failure to appear. There's no need for this Warrant. So by omission, she's claiming in her Affidavit that she didn't hear it. She didn't see it. I'm not quite sure exactly what she's saying. She's trying to get out it. But if she's in a courtroom and it's mentioned that we're going to issue a warrant for failure to appear, as a court officer, even as an assumed court officer with the certification from her Dean, that means she has the

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onerous to uphold the rules of the Court, the constitutional rights and the State rights.

I'll finish here. The tort issue that
Michael King is bringing up says it's only two years for
false arrest. It's a well-established fact in this
State that it's four years to bring a tort claim in
front of a Court. That's why we're standing here today.
This was three years ago, 2007, and we're here within
the four-year time limit. Perhaps there's some other
requirement I'm not aware of for the two years. I know
for a fact in a federal court I can bring a tort up to
four years, and I believe it's the same in this court.

The Affidavits never said anything that she was supervised in the courtroom. I'm referring to Angela Wetzsteon. If a student is not supervised, I'll just say -- I'm not going to say I was a teacher, but I also was student teaching. My teacher was in the courtroom. I had no power to put people in jail. I had no power to do the things that a prosecutor can do, and there's a very important reason to this Student Practice Act. It's clinical instruction. You're not getting clinical instruction when you're standing there alone. You're not being watched. You're not being checked, and that's the problem with this case, and this has caused immeasurable and irreparable damage to my life, to my

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future and an unbearable stress to my family. And this is the reason why the case -- the Complaint was filed.

I don't think we need to argue on the facts We're talking about immunity. I'm going to right now. end with a case where even if immunity is granted, it still doesn't give them immunity from civil liability. Smith on behalf of Smith Butte Silver Bow, 1994, "Prosecutor immunity does not shield a prosecutor from civil liability for all acts or omissions." other words, even if you do find there's immunity, there's still civil liability involved. This hearing is not the end all for this case for a couple of reasons. For this quote right here that they don't end with prosecutorial immunity, but also if it gets appealed up to the Supreme Court, they may send it right back and say it was incorrect to issue immunity because in Losleben, like I quoted earlier, the administrative duties of someone like George Corn saying, Hey, Angela go down to Justice Court and prosecute this case, that's an administrative duty. And that was already established by the Supreme Court in the state that that doesn't bring immunity.

Also, the last thing is an action that lacks probable cause, it stops all immunity. My attorney -- and it's well established, it's in the docket. My

attorney, Sasha Brownlee, was bringing the case for 10:02:05 justifiable force and a couple other constitutional rights that are irrelevant here. But the fact that 3 there's probable cause issue where it was justifiable 4 force for this situation would totally erase immunity for the Defendants, George Corn and Angela Wetzsteon. 10:02:24 This is found in American Jurisprudence Second Edition

> So lastly, Your Honor, I'd like to respectfully object to the assigning of immunity to the Defendants. I'd like that to be in the official record. Because I feel very strongly, in the research that I've done in cases involving -- I couldn't find any with students, but especially with respect to Mr. Corn and administrative duties, it's a well-established fact and precedent in the Montana Supreme Court that no immunity is available. So as a plaintiff here, I'm asking the Court to enter my objection respectfully because I do not believe, very strongly, immunity is available here to the Defendants.

> > THE COURT: Very well.

MR. SPREADBURY: Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. King.

MR. KING: Very briefly, Your Honor. couple points. First of all, I want to address the

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in Section 102.

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issue of the Student Practice Rule and the argument by Mr. Spreadbury that Miss Wetzsteon wasn't authorized under the Rule. Mr. Spreadbury hasn't produced any evidence that refutes any part of Angela Wetzsteon's Affidavit concerning her qualifications under the Student Practice Rule. It's his burden to come forward with specific facts that refute her Affidavit and he simply hasn't done it. Saying that she isn't authorized is not a substitute for presenting facts that she, in fact, wasn't authorized. So there's no factual basis for the statement that she wasn't authorized under the Rule in the first place.

Secondly, the argument that she needed a supervising attorney with her during his criminal trial is mistaken. The Student Practice Rule very clearly states in Paragraph 2 that, quote, "An eligible law student may also appear in any criminal matter on behalf of the State with the written approval of the supervising lawyer and the prosecuting attorney or his authorized representative." And there's no dispute that she was authorized by her boss, Mr. Corn, and Mr. Fulbright, her supervising attorney during that trial, to appear at that trial. The requirement for having supervision appears in Subsection 2(a) of the Rule, not Subsection 2(b), which I just quoted. And

that has to do with criminal defense attorneys 10:05:24 1 representing defendants who have a legal right to legal 10:05:28 Under those circumstances, the Rule requires 3 10:05:35 the presence of a supervising attorney, but not under 10:05:40 4 5 Subsection (b), which is the subsection of the rule 10:05:42 pursuant to which Miss Wetzsteon appeared at 10:05:45 Mr. Spreadbury's criminal trial. 10:05:48

With respect to Mr. Spreadbury's argument that George Corn isn't entitled to prosecutorial immunity because he's an administrative attorney or supervising attorney, that argument was done away with by the U.S. Supreme Court in Van de Kamp v. Goldstein, which I cite on page 5 of the Reply Brief in Support of Summary Judgment. And Mr. Spreadbury, despite all the legal research he purports to have done, hasn't provided this Court with any legal authorities to the contrary.

Mr. Spreadbury takes issue with a photograph apparently. He claims it was altered by somebody. What he has failed to do, and it's his burden to do, if he thinks that is an issue in this case, is to present evidence that the two people he sued, George Corn and Angela Wetzsteon, had something to do with any such alteration, and he hasn't produced any such evidence to this Court in that regard.

Finally, I've been practicing in the Tort

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Claims Division for the State of Montana for almost 10:07:07 1 15 years now, and it's the first I've ever heard that a 2 10:07:10 four-year statute of limitations applies to torts. 10:07:14 3 Court is well aware there's a three-year general statute 10:07:17 of limitations for tort claims. In the case of a false 10:07:20 arrest claim, there's a two-year statute. I don't know 10:07:25 what legal authorities Mr. Spreadbury is relying on to 10:07:27 the contrary, but I do know this: He hasn't presented 10:07:30 10:07:34 any to this Court. So this Court should grant summary judgment, and on behalf of George Corn and Angela 10:07:38 10 Wetzsteon, I would request respectfully that the Court 10:07:41 11 do so. Thank you. 12 10:07:44 10:07:46 13 Very well, the matter is deemed 10:07:48 14 submitted. The Court will issue a written ruling. (Proceedings concluded.) 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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3	STATE OF MONTANA)) ss.
4	COUNTY OF RAVALLI)
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6	I, Tamara Stuckey, Official Court Reporter for the State of Montana, do hereby certify:
7	That I was duly authorized to and did report the
8	proceedings in the above-entitled cause;
9	That the foregoing pages of this transcript constitute a true and accurate transcription of my
10	stenotype notes.
11	I further certify that I am not an attorney, nor counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or
12	employee of any attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor financially interested in the action.
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14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 19th day of September, 2011.
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19	Official Court Reporter State of Montana Twenty-First Judicial District
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