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Judge dismisses wrongful imprisonment suit against former Blount County prosecutor and detective

By Wes Wade wes.wade@thedailytimes.com 22 hrs ago



KNOXVILLE — A federal judge has dismissed a wrongful imprisonment suit against the Blount County government and two former officials, stating the lawsuit was **filed four years too late**.

Douglas Franklin Jordan Jr., who was convicted in the 1998 slaying of a Louisville woman and then acquitted in the same case following a **retrial two years ago**, filed suit in March 2016 in Knoxville's U.S. District Court alleging the original detective and prosecutor on the case intentionally withheld key evidence, leading directly to his initial conviction and eight-and-a-half-year stint in prison.

Douglas Franklin Jordan Jr. appears in Blount County Circuit Court for his retrial in March 2015, where a jury acquitted him in the 1998 slaying of a Louisville woman. A federal judge has dismissed his wrongful conviction and imprisonment suit against the Blount County government and two former officials on grounds the litigation was filed four years too late.

Daryl Sullivan | The Daily Times

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Pamela Reeves dismissed the suit, finding the **statute of limitations for such litigation expired in**

early 2012.

A Blount County jury convicted Jordan of second-degree homicide in October 2002 in the 1998 slaying of Jennifer Byerley, a deaf and mute Louisville woman. He was serving a 23-year prison sentence when the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals granted him a new trial in January 2011.

The appellate court said the state withheld evidence favorable to Jordan's defense, and it could be enough to cast doubt on his guilty plea. The evidence was turned over, and at his March 2015 retrial in Blount County Circuit Court, a 12-person jury acquitted Jordan.

It was this acquittal that spurred Jordan to sue former Blount County Sheriff's Office Detective Scott Carpenter and former Blount County Assistant District Attorney General James Brooks.

But Reeves said if Jordan wanted to sue, he should have done so within a year of the state appellate court's decision to reverse his original conviction.

Wes Wade

Crime and courts reporter for The Daily Times.