

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **County Tries to Manipulate Appointment of Counsel in Bujak Criminal Case**

*December 21, 2011* – A magistrate judge presiding over former prosecutor John Bujak's criminal case has denied a request by the Canyon County Public Defender to change Bujak's court-appointed attorney. Nancy Callahan was appointed by the Honorable James C. Peart, Magistrate Judge, to represent Bujak when he was arrested on December 13, 2011. Soon thereafter, the Canyon County Public Defender, Mark Mimura, demanded a telephonic hearing seeking to change Bujak's legal counsel. During the telephonic hearing Mimura made allegations to the Judge that proved to be false in an effort to get the Judge to appoint a different attorney to represent Bujak in the criminal case. Mimura also indicated that the Canyon County Commissioners, who have an obvious conflict of interest and acted inappropriately in influencing the appointment in the criminal case, were also involved in choosing Bujak's legal counsel in his divorce case. Today, Judge Peart, citing Mimura's high level of conflict of interest, indicated that Mimura had no business choosing Bujak's legal counsel and ruled that Callahan will continue to act as Bujak's attorney. The Judge said that the issue of costs, which will be substantial, will need to be addressed between Mimura and the Commissioners.

Revisiting the appointment of legal counsel in a criminal case is irregular and likely violates the protections of the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, but this is not the first irregularity presented by Bujak's case.

**Relevant court documents are attached for your review.**