Materials Submitted for the Task Force Meeting to Consider Articles of Impeachment for Recommendation to the Full Judiciary Committee

- 1. Certified Copy of Court's Judgement (May 11, 2008)
- 2. Memorandum of Interview by Alan Baron
- 3. Memorandum of Interview by Kirsten Konar

The Committee has the following materials available for Members' review at the Committee

- a) Grand Jury testimony related to Ms. Wilkerson
- b) Two FBI "302s" related to Judge Kent
- c) Medical & psychological opinions provided by Judge Kent's Counsel

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-vs-

Case # 4:08cr596-001/RV

SAMUEL B. KENT

USM # 45225-079

Defendant's Attorney: Dick DeGuerin, Esquire (Retained) 1018 Preston Avenue, 7th Floor Houston, TX 77002

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

The defendant pled guilty to Count 6 of the Superseding Indictment on February 23, 2009. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the defendant is adjudged guilty of such count(s) which involve(s) the following offense(s):

TITLE/SECTION
<u>NUMBER</u>

NATURE OF OFFENSE

DATE OFFENSE CONCLUDED

COUNT

18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2)

Obstruction of Justice

June 8, 2007

Six

The defendant is sentenced as provided in the following pages of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, including amendments effective subsequent to 1984, and the Sentencing Guidelines promulgated by the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Counts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are dismissed on the motion of the United States.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant shall notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid.

Date of Imposition of Sentence: May 11, 2009

ROGER VINSON

SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

May 11, 2009

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of **33 months**.

The Court recommends to the Bureau of Prisons:

While incarcerated, the defendant shall participate in the Bureau of Prisons Residential Drug Abuse program, or other such similar program for the treatment of substance abuse.

That the defendant be designated to a Bureau of Prison facility that has a medical and mental health unit as appropriate for the defendant's medical and mental health conditions.

The defendant shall surrender to either the United States Marshal for this district or to the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons on 12 noon, June 15, 2009.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:		
Defendant delivered on	to	
at		, with a certified copy of this judgment.
	_	UNITED STATES MARSHAL
	Bu:	
		Deputy U.S. Marshal

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of **3 years**.

The defendant shall report to the probation office in the district to which the defendant is released within 72 hours of release from custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

The defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime and shall not possess a firearm, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon.

The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

The defendant shall comply with the following standard conditions that have been adopted by this court.

- The defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the permission of the court or probation officer;
- 2. The defendant shall report to the probation officer and shall submit a truthful and complete written report within the first five days of each month;
- The defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer;
- 4. The defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities;
- The defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation, unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons;
- The defendant shall notify the probation officer at least 10 days prior to any change in residence or employment;
- 7. The defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any controlled substance or any paraphernalia related to any controlled substances, except as prescribed by a physician;
- The defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
- The defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer;
- 10. The defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and

shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view of the probation officer;

- 11. The defendant shall notify the probation officer within **72 hours** of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer;
- 12. The defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the court; and
- As directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics and shall permit the probation officer to make such notifications and to confirm the defendant's compliance with such notification requirement.
- 14. If this judgment imposes a fine or a restitution obligation, it shall be a condition of supervision that the defendant pay any such fine or restitution in accordance with the Schedule of Payments set forth in the Criminal Monetary Penalties sheet of this judgment.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISED RELEASE

The defendant shall also comply with the following additional conditions of supervised release:

- 1. Any unpaid portion of the restitution shall be paid in installments of not less than \$200.00 per month. These payments are to commence with three (3) months from the defendant's release from imprisonment.
- 2. Any unpaid portion of the fine shall be paid in installments of not less than \$31.00 per month. These payments are to commence with three (3) months from the defendant's release from imprisonment. Payments toward the victims' restitution shall take priority over payments of the fine.
- 3. The defendant shall be evaluated for substance abuse and referred to treatment as determined necessary through an evaluation process. The defendant may be tested for the presence of illegal controlled substances or alcohol at any time during the term of supervision.
- 4. The defendant shall participate in a program of mental health counseling and/or treatment.
- 5. The defendant shall provide the probation officer all requested financial information, both business and personal. The defendant shall not incur any new debts or liquidate any assets without the permission of the supervising United States Probation Officer, until the financial obligations are satisfied.
- 6. The defendant shall not have any contact with the individual victims identified in this case.

Upon a finding of a violation of probation or supervised release, I understand the Court may (1) revoke supervision, (2) extend the term of supervision, and/or (3) modify the conditions of supervision.

These conditions have been read to me. I fully understand the conditions and have been provided a copy of them.

Defendant	Date
U.S. Probation Officer/Designated Witness	Date

CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

All criminal monetary penalty payments, except those payments made through the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are to be made to the Clerk, U.S. District Court, unless otherwise directed by the Court. Payments shall be made payable to the Clerk, U.S. District Court, and mailed to 111 N. Adams St., Suite 322, Tallahassee, FL 32301-7717. Payments can be made in the form of cash if paid in person.

The defendant shall pay the following total criminal monetary penalties in accordance with the schedule of payments set forth in the Schedule of Payments. The defendant shall pay interest on any fine or restitution of more than \$2,500, unless the fine or restitution is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options in the Schedule of Payments may be subject to penalties for default and delinquency pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).

SUMMARY

<u>Special</u>		
Monetary Assessment	<u>Fine</u>	Restitution
\$100.00	\$1,000.00	\$6,550.00

SPECIAL MONETARY ASSESSMENT

A special monetary assessment of \$100.00 is imposed.

FINE

A fine in the amount of \$1,000.00 is imposed. Interest is waived.

RESTITUTION

Restitution in the amount of \$6,550.00 is imposed. Interest is waived.

The defendant shall make restitution to the following victims in the amounts listed below.

Name of Payee	Total Amount <u>of Loss</u>	Amount of Restitution Ordered
Cathy McBroom	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
Donna Wilkerson	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportional payment unless specified otherwise. If nominal payments are made by the defendant the court authorizes those payments to be made to the victims on a rotating basis.

The amount of loss and the amount of restitution ordered will be the same unless, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(f)(3)(B), the court orders nominal payments and this is reflected in the Statement of Reasons page.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) special monetary assessment; (2) non-federal victim restitution; (3) federal victim restitution; (4) fine principal; (5) costs; (6) interest; (7) penalties The defendant must notify the court of any material changes in the defendant's economic circumstances, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3572(d), 3664(k) and 3664(n). Upon notice of a change in the defendant's economic condition, the Court may adjust the installment payment schedule as the interests of justice require.

Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(f)(3)(A):

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise above, if this judgment imposes a period of imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties shall be due during the period of imprisonment. In the event the entire amount of monetary penalties imposed is not paid prior to the commencement of supervision, the U.S. probation officer shall pursue collection of the amount due. The defendant will receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

On the evening of June 5, 2009, I participated in a telephone interview of FBI Special Agent David Baker. This interview had been arranged by the Department of Justice and the FBI. On the call with me and Agent Baker were Faith Burton and William Erb of the Department of Justice Office of Legislative Affairs and Monique Kelso of the FBI. The basis for the interview was contained in the transcript of Judge Kent's sentencing where prosecutors represented to the sentencing judge (Vinson) that Judge Kent had lied on two other occasions to FBI Agents and prosecutors in describing his contacts with Cathy McBroom and Donna Wilkerson. Agent Baker was present on both occasions.

It should be noted that Agent Baker was being interviewed over the telephone, while he was in his automobile.

Agent Baker related to me that there were two occasions when Judge Kent contacted the FBI and voluntarily appeared to "give his version of the facts."

The first occasion was on November 30, 2007. Judge Kent voluntarily appeared without counsel to discuss allegations made against him by Cathy McBroom. According to Judge Kent, all of his sexual contacts with McBroom were consensual; that McBroom flirted with him and "came on to him." According to Judge Kent, McBroom was retaliating by making false accusations because he had not helped her with regard to some disciplinary matter. Kent claimed that McBroom was promiscuous.

With regard to Donna Wilkerson, Judge Kent claimed he had kissed her a couple of times, but stopped when she made it clear that she did not want that. Kent also mentioned that he had kissed another courthouse employee, Marianne Gore, but stopped after she made it clear that she did not want anything to do with this.

Judge Kent also made much of his background; how he had worked his way up professionally and that he was a stellar judge.

Baker also advised that there was a second interview with Judge Kent in August, 2008, where he voluntarily appeared with counsel, Richard DeGuerin, at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC. Representatives of the Department of Justice and the FBI were present. According to Baker, Judge Kent repeated his earlier version of events almost verbatim. He continued to state that his contacts with McBroom were consensual and that his only contact with Wilkerson involved two kisses which stopped when she resisted.

ALAN L BARON

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

On May 28, 2009, Alan Baron and I interviewed Donna Wilkerson at the law offices of Terry W. Yates in Houston, Texas. This interview was conducted in preparation for the upcoming June 3, 2009 hearing before the Committee on the Judiciary's Special Impeachment Task Force, regarding the possible impeachment of Federal District Court Judge Samuel B. Kent.

Background Information

Ms. Wilkerson worked as Judge Kent's personal secretary for approximately seven years, from December 2001 through the present. During that time, Ms. Wilkerson was repeatedly sexually abused by Judge Kent.

Abuse Suffered by Ms. Wilkerson

1. The First Instance of Abuse

Ms. Wilkerson explained that Judge Kent's abuse began on her fifth day of employment, in December of 2001. On that day, Judge Kent's previous secretary of twenty years was retiring, and a retirement party was held for her at a restaurant outside of the courthouse. At this party, Judge Kent and many others became heavily intoxicated. After the party, a large number of employees, including Ms. Wilkerson and Judge Kent, traveled back to the courthouse together. Ms. Wilkerson describes her participation in this event as simply having "gone along for the ride," since she was a brand new employee and barely knew any of her colleagues yet.

Once the group returned to the courthouse, Judge Kent called Ms. Wilkerson into his office. After she entered, he closed the door behind her. The Judge then proceeded to tell Ms. Wilkerson how happy he was that she was there working for him, and how beautiful he thought she was. Ms. Wilkerson remembers that she had been sitting while the Judge spoke. As the Judge rose to let Ms. Wilkerson out of the office, he pushed her up against the office door, trapping her between both of his arms with his hands pressed against the door, and kissed her.

2. Pattern and Practice of Abuse

To the best of Ms. Wilkerson's recollection, on average, Judge Kent would engage in inappropriate contact with her several times a month over a period of approximately two years. (Ms. Wilkerson noted, however, that Judge Kent's law clerk, Carey Worrell, who was aware of Judge Kent's abuse of Ms. Wilkerson, recalls the abuse lasting for a longer period of time.)

Ms. Wilkerson also noted that during the period of abuse, the Judge would occasionally quit drinking for several months. When he was not drinking, the abuse would temporarily stop and the Judge "would behave himself."

While Judge Kent is no longer on the bench, Ms. Wilkerson explained that because he is still a federal judge, she continues to be assigned to his courtroom and under his payroll. She has not been able to permanently transfer to a different courtroom.

Ms. Wilkerson described the severity of the abuse by Judge Kent as being on a bell curve, with the encounters growing worse and worse, until one or two culminating episodes, but then tapering off in severity after that.

3. <u>Culmination of Judge Kent's Abuse</u>

At the beginning, Judge Kent's inappropriate behavior with Ms. Wilkerson had consisted of comments like, "come over here and give me a hug." Ms. Wilkerson explained that the Judge would frequently lean against the arm of a sofa, and would sweep Ms. Wilkerson into him. From there, the incidents escalated up to kissing. Next, the incidents escalated to the Judge's hands wandering first outside of Ms. Wilkerson's clothes, and later wandering inside of her clothes. Throughout all of these episodes, Ms. Wilkerson would regularly and routinely tell the Judge to stop.

The Judge would also make comments to Ms. Wilkerson such as, "you have the cutest little titties." He would also say to her, "come and let me see those . . ." while he would clench his fingers, like he was squeezing an object, indicating he wanted to squish and grab Ms. Wilkerson's private parts.

Ms. Wilkerson would often try to avoid the judge by averting eye contact with him, or by sitting at her desk and trying to look like she was busy working. But, these efforts made no difference. She said that the Judge would simply come up behind her while she was typing at her desk and would reach his arms overtop of her to grab and fondle her breasts.

Finally, the worst instance of abuse occurred when Judge Kent pinned Ms. Wilkerson down in her chair, took off her pants, and performed oral sex on her. Ms. Wilkerson explained that by this point, the Judge had broken her, so she thus gave up and let the Judge do this do her.

The Judge had also told Ms. Wilkerson on frequent prior occasions that he wanted to perform oral sex on her. Ms. Wilkerson said that even having the Judge tell her what he wanted to do to her was extremely traumatizing.

Ms. Wilkerson explained that such abuse was able to go on because she was trapped in an office with the Judge. Only the Judge's personal staff had keys to access the offices, and any visitor had to be let in by Ms. Wilkerson. Therefore, it was easy for the Judge to carry out his acts without being caught.

The Judge was also an extremely large and dominating man, standing at approximately six feet, five inches and weighing approximately 300 pounds. Ms. Wilkerson described him as a very aggressive and physical drunk.

4. Other Instances of Abusive Conduct by Judge Kent

Judge Kent also had a bulldog that he regularly brought with him to the courthouse. Ms. Wilkerson was very afraid of the dog, and she knew it had bitten before. She said that the dog would urinate and defecate on the office floors, and she was the one who always had to clean up after it. She said that Judge Kent clearly enjoyed the fact that his dog was a mean animal, and laughed at the fact that his dog had almost killed other dogs.

5. After the Abuse Ended

In approximately August or September of 2006, after Judge Kent's abuse of Ms. Wilkerson had ceased, he and his wife moved into the same town where Ms. Wilkerson's family lived. Judge Kent and his wife thereafter began attending Ms. Wilkerson's children's sporting events. Ms. Wilkerson described this period of time as a period where both her and the Judge acted as though nothing had ever happened between them. She stated that she did her best to push all the past abuse out of her mind. She also said that her and the Judge never spoke of what had previously transpired between them at work.

Ms. Wilkerson explained that Judge Kent regularly played to people's sympathies. As one example, she said that there was also a period of time after the abuse ended, in which Ms. Wilkerson, along with both of Judge Kent's law clerks, would drive to and from work with the Judge because they all lived in the same area. Ms. Wilkerson gave us the impression that this carpooling was not something she could have said no to. And, the Judge knew that based upon her kind personality, she would continue with this carpool arrangement.

A second example of the Judge playing to his staff's sympathies occurred during a period of time after Ms. McBroom had gone public with her story. The Judge would not allow either Ms. Wilkerson or his law clerks to eat lunch on their own. Instead, the entire staff was required to sit in a conference room and eat lunch with him. Ms. Wilkerson explained that the Judge would tell her and the clerks that he was sad/upset/lonely because of the allegations by Ms. McBroom, and he therefore forced or guilted everyone into eating with him.

Ms. Wilkerson's Failure To Take Action or To Report Judge Kent's Abuse

When asked why she never reported the abuse by Judge Kent or took any action, Ms. Wilkerson gave the following explanations:

1. Fear of Retaliation by Judge Kent

Ms. Wilkerson stated that if she had done anything about the abuse, she would have surely been fired from her job. She also believed she never would have been able to find another job as a secretary in the legal community, because Judge Kent would have blackballed her and would have made it impossible for her to gain any other employment. Ms. Wilkerson explained that she has seen Judge Kent do this to others before, so she knew the power and influence he carried. She said that people in Galveston believed everything that Judge Kent said.

2. The Importance of Ms. Wilkerson's Job to Her and Her Family

Ms. Wilkerson is the primary breadwinner in her family. Her husband is also employed, working on a natural gas pipeline, but does not make nearly the kind of money that Ms. Wilkerson does. Thus, her income is crucial to her family.

Prior to working for Judge Kent, Ms. Wilkerson was a secretary at a large law firm, much further away from her home. Her employment with Judge Kent was therefore much better for her and her family, because it meant she was closer to home and she did not have to work

extremely late hours, which she used to do at the private law firm. Judge Kent knew how much Ms. Wilkerson valued her job and the extra time it allowed her to spend with her family.

Another reason why Ms. Wilkerson's job is so important to her is because she made a promise to her dying sister to re-prioritize her life so that she could spend more time with her family. Ms. Wilkerson's sister was fourteen years older and had been as much Ms. Wilkerson's mother as her sister. She passed away after a bilateral lung transplant was unsuccessful. In the weeks leading up to her death, Ms. Wilkerson's sister told her that she needed to slow down, to be closer to home, etc. Ms. Wilkerson thus promised her sister she would make those life changes. As a result of that promise, Ms. Wilkerson applied for the job in Judge Kent's chambers. She said this job was even more important because it made her feel as though she was fulfilling her promise to her sister.

3. No Supervisor To Report Abuse To

Ms. Wilkerson also explained that she had no supervisor to whom she could report the abuse. She said that each federal judge hires his or her own personal staff (consisting of a secretary and several law clerks), and that Judge Kent had told her from her first day on the job that judges "do what they want, when they want with their own staff."

Ms. Wilkerson did eventually tell Judge Kent's two law clerks, Carey Worrell and Kurt Arnold, of the abuse she was suffering. [Ms. Wilkerson noted that Mr. Arnold had later gone before the Grand Jury and had said that he felt Ms. Wilkerson had failed to tell her entire story to the Grand Jury, prompting the Grand Jury to go back to Ms. Wilkerson.]

4. Extreme Fear of Her Husband's Reaction

Ms. Wilkerson never even told her own husband about the abuse she was suffering at the hands of Judge Kent, while the abuse was going on. She explained to us that her husband has a very hot temper, and she was thus extremely afraid of what her husband might do if he learned that Judge Kent had abused her. This fear of having her family ripped out from under her, if her husband found out, prevented her from telling him for a very long time.

While her husband does now know of everything that transpired with the Judge, it has nevertheless pushed the couple's marriage to the limits. Ms. Wilkerson said that her husband has felt a horrible breach of trust because she did not tell him about the abuse when it was happening.

5. Judge Kent's Power Over Everyone in Galveston

According to Ms. Wilkerson, everyone in Galveston knows who Judge Kent is. She said that he regularly called himself "the emperor of Galveston," and would also proclaim that "I am the government."

Ms. Wilkerson described one instance when Judge Kent went down to the ground floor of the courthouse building, where there was a post office, to buy stamps. He took his bulldog with him and was also smoking a cigar. While Judge Kent was in line, a citizen (not knowing who the Judge was) told him that he could not smoke in the post office, nor could he have an animal.

Ms. Wilkerson knows of this event because the Judge was so angry about it when he returned to chambers. He said to Ms. Wilkerson and one of the clerks (Carey): "I told him . . . this is my f***ing building. I can do what the f*** I want!"

Regarding Ms. McBroom's Accusations

Ms. Wilkerson stated unequivocally that all of the things contained in Ms. McBroom's letter of judicial misconduct are true, and Ms. Wilkerson knows this because the same things were said and done to her.

According to Ms. Wilkerson, the reason that Ms. McBroom finally decided to come out with the abuse she had suffered was because she believed she was about to get fired for a separate incident involving a missing piece of evidence.

By the point in time that Ms. McBroom went public with the abuse she had suffered, her and Ms. Wilkerson had both confided in each other that they had been abused by the Judge, though they did not share any of the details. Ms. Wilkerson explained that the two women had gone to lunch, and Ms. McBroom had confided that the Judge was acting inappropriately with her. Ms. Wilkerson then told Ms. McBroom that the same had happened to her before. Ms. Wilkerson considered this confession something private, like girl talk between two women who had suffered the same harm. She had always thought that Ms. McBroom would keep her confession private.

Thus, when Ms. McBroom dragged Ms. Wilkerson into the public eye, Ms. Wilkerson was very angry about this and felt that Ms. McBroom had betrayed her trust. At this point, the abuse suffered by Ms. Wilkerson had stopped, and she therefore opted to <u>not</u> come out right away and tell her story. Ms. Wilkerson believes that her decision to remain quiet for a much longer period of time made it very easy for Judge Kent to create the story that Ms. McBroom had first come on to him, and that they had been having an affair.

Ms. Wilkerson's False Testimony

1. Failure to Disclose Full Details of Abuse

Ms. Wilkerson explained to us that she has testified on several previous occasions surrounding the investigation of Judge Kent. She first testified before the Special Investigative Committee appointed by the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council in response to Cathy McBroom's Complaint of Judicial Misconduct against Judge Kent. Ms. Wilkerson next testified before a Federal Grand Jury regarding the criminal investigation of Judge Kent. In both of these settings, Ms. Wilkerson left out significant and critical portions of what Judge Kent had done to her over the years.

Ms. Wilkerson readily acknowledged that she has previously testified falsely regarding Judge Kent's inappropriate behavior. She made clear, however, that she has never taken the position that any of the episodes between her and the Judge were consensual. As to this point, her testimony has always remained consistent – Judge Kent's advances were always unwanted.

Regarding Ms. Wilkerson's previous false testimony, she told the Fifth Circuit Special Investigative Committee that Judge Kent regularly asked her for hugs and kisses, and that he would force these upon her. Ms. Wilkerson also reported to the Investigative Committee that she had considered Judge Kent's behavior inappropriate and had asked him to stop. She did not reveal, however, any further details of Judge Kent's extensive inappropriate behavior. Ms. Wilkerson also reported to the Investigative Committee that Judge Kent's advances had stopped.

2. Reasons for Failure to Disclose

The reasons for Ms. Wilkerson's initial false testimony encompass many of the same reasons why she never told anyone about the abuse she was suffering, as discussed above. She had also been shocked and angry when Ms. McBroom brought Ms. Wilkerson into the public situation.

Additionally, when Judge Kent was first going to be interviewed by the Special Investigative Committee, in approximately June 2008, he told everyone at the courthouse what his story was concerning Ms. Wilkerson. He also later directly told Ms. Wilkerson what his story had been to the Fifth Circuit and to the FBI: that he had been inappropriate with Ms. Wilkerson on just a few occasions, but these instances involved kissing and nothing more. The implication from the Judge to Ms. Wilkerson was clear – she was to stick to the same story he had already told.

Ms. Wilkerson also stayed quiet for so long because of the intense manipulation that Judge Kent subjected her to. He would threaten suicide almost every day after Ms. McBroom's accusations were made public. Then, after his return to the courthouse after his four-month leave (from September – December 31, 2008), he told Ms Wilkerson, "if Pam from Dr. Hirshfeld's office calls, patch her through . . . you know I am on suicide watch again, right?" Judge Kent's suicide comments further caused Ms. Wilkerson to stay quiet, because she was so afraid of being the catalyst for him taking his own life.

Judge Kent made yet another suicide comment to his law clerk Carey Worrell: "if Donna rolls on me, I can't take it anymore. I am going to kill myself." Judge Kent made this comment to Carey, knowing she would immediately turn around and tell Ms. Wilkerson, which she did.

Further guilt and manipulation were put upon Ms. Wilkerson by the Judge because he had put her in his will, after just six months of Ms. Wilkerson working for the Judge. (Ms. Wilkerson noted that Judge Kent's previous secretary was also in his will.)

Kirsten W. Konar, Esq.