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Ex-area man accused of harassing judges

Rebecca S. Green | The Journal Gazette

A 44-year-old man living in Hawaii has been charged with harassing elected officials in Adams County. Advertisement

Ricky A. Dyer is charged with a Class C felony charge of intimidation, two Class D felony charges of intimidation and three misdemeanor charges of harassment.

The Class C felony carries a sentence of up to eight years in prison, and the Class D felonies each carry up to three years.

He is accused of sending dozens of threatening e-mails, leaving threatening phone messages and making hundreds of harassing phone calls to Adams County Prosecutor Christopher Harvey, Circuit Court Judge Frederick Schurger and retired Superior Court Judge James Heimann.

The charges were filed this month in Adams Circuit Court by Huntington County Prosecutor Amy Richison, appointed as a special prosecutor in the case. Dyer was arrested by police in Hawaii this week, officials said.

Because of the nature of the case and who was allegedly harassed, Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian D. Hutchison has been appointed as a special judge, Richison said.

According to the dozens of pages included in court documents, when Harvey was in private practice, he represented Dyer's ex-wife. Dyer filed a disciplinary complaint against Harvey after Dyer was prosecuted for not paying his child support.

In the fall of 2007, Harvey received his first threatening phone call. It has escalated ever since, according to court documents.

Dyer left voice-mail messages with the Adams County Crime Stoppers, and

he sent dozens of rambling and incoherent e-mails and left vulgar and threatening voice-mail messages on Harvey's office phone threatening Schurger, Heimann and Harvey, according to court documents.

In September, court documents said, he sent an e-mail to Harvey, telling him to "wise up."

"Yu (sic) play with my blood I play with your blood (UNDERSTAND)," the e-mail said.

When Dyer found out Indiana State Police Det. Mark Heffelfinger was investigating the matter, he called Heffelfinger 112 times in a 24-hour period on Christmas Eve, the detective said.

"I think he has no other life but to do this," he said. "It's a non-stop, continuing deal. It's unreal."

Had the case been just about harassing phone calls, Dyer would have merely been a nuisance, Heffelfinger said. But Dyer often indicated he was back in Adams County, where he has family, and that made it more serious, Heffelfinger said.

Dyer also filed a federal lawsuit in Hawaii against Harvey in February 2008, alleging a violation of his constitutional rights by his 1998 arrest on a count of failure to pay child support.

The lawsuit was dismissed in June, but Dyer continues to file motions seeking a reversal of that decision.

Heffelfinger said Dyer initially told police upon his arrest this week that he intended to fight extradition to Indiana. Either way, the detective may have to take a trip to Hawaii to pick up Dyer.

The money for that trip would come out of the Adams County Sheriff's Department budget, funded by bond forfeitures, Heffelfinger said.

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