

STATE OF OKLAHOMA )  
 )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF TULSA )

**Affidavit of Michael L. Hardison**

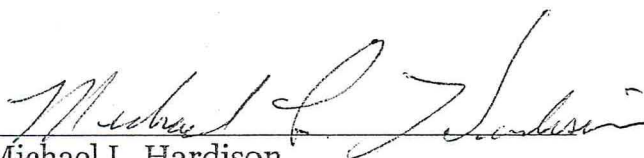
1. I am over the age of 18 and of sound mind.
2. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this Affidavit.
3. For fourteen (14) years, I worked as an aircraft maintenance technician with American Airlines. I hold an Airframe and/or Powerplant (A&P) certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
4. In 2003, I obtained an Associate's Degree in gunsmithing from the Colorado School of Trade.
5. I also hold a federal firearms license.
6. From 2003 through August of 2011 I worked as a gunsmith d/b/a Tulsa Gun Works. During this time, I worked out of Oklahoma Police Supply, which was owned and operated by Rick Phillips ("Phillips").
7. In August 2011, I was hired to work as the gunsmith for 2A Shooting Center ("2A"). 2A Shooting Center is, and was at all pertinent times, owned by Phillips and Clark Brewster ("Brewster") as partners. Brewster is a local attorney in Tulsa. I hired as the gunsmith for 2A by both Brewster and Phillips.
8. I worked for 2A from its inception.
9. I negotiated my salary with Brewster before I began work for 2A.
10. I was the only gunsmith at 2A.
11. I went on salary with 2A in August 2011 and was there until March 10, 2016.
12. My duties and responsibilities as gunsmith at 2A included, care and cleaning of guns and rentals. I also brought in walk-in business. It was my responsibility to keep the rental guns in safe working condition.
13. I was further tasked with gun modifications. In 2008 or 2009, I was hired by Robert C. Bates ("Bates") to do some modifications on several shotguns he owned. Bates is a local insurance executive and former Reserve Deputy with the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office ("TCSO"). This is the first time I recall meeting Bates. I modified Bates' shotguns by taking them from lethal to less lethal.
14. On or about March 8, 2016, Eric Fuson ("Eric"), manager at 2A and 10% owner of 2A, asked me to modify a gun for use in the criminal trial of Bates. Bates is represented by Brewster in the criminal matter.
15. Eric specifically told me that 2A had a gun coming in for use in the Bates trial and that it needed a "trigger job". Eric asked me to modify the gun by reducing the amount of force required to discharge the weapon. Eric indicated that I was to take the gun's trigger from stock configuration (11 to 12 1/2 pound of force required) and significantly reduce that number.



- 16. I initially told Eric "okay". We had no further conversation on the Bates matter that day.
- 17. On or about March 9, I came to work at 2A and saw a Smith and Wesson .357 model 340 on a desk. The .357 was still in the box. Clearly, the .357 had been ordered by 2A.
- 18. After seeing the gun, I asked Eric whether it was the gun for the Bates trial we discussed earlier. Eric said "yes".
- 19. I told Eric "I have a problem with that". I then asked Eric several questions. I asked Eric why I needed to do a trigger job on a gun that would be evidence in trial. I noted that it was improper to modify a "duty weapon". It was part of my training (armor training and Colorado School of Trade) – one should never modify a duty weapon. I asked Eric, "Why don't they use the actual gun [used to shoot Eric Harris] as evidence [at the trial]?"
- 20. Eric told me that the "jury [in the Bates trial] too stupid to figure it out." My impression from this was that the trigger was to be modified in order to fool or manipulate the jury in the Bates trial.
- 21. I told Eric, "I can't do that".
- 22. Rick Phillips heard the last part of this conversation with Eric. Phillips stated, "Bob [Bates] shooting that guy was an accident."
- 23. I finished out the work day on March 9.
- 24. I came back to 2A the next day, March 10, and resigned. I told Eric, "I resign." I spent that day moving tools out. Eric asked, "where are replacement springs to do the trigger job" for the .357? I gave Eric the springs and left.

Anything further, affiant saith not.

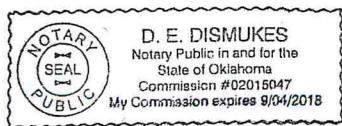
DATED this 8th day of April, 2016.

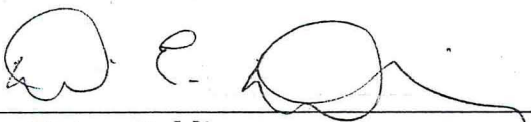
  
 Michael L. Hardison

Signed and sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 2016, by Michael L. Hardison.

My Commission Expires:

(SEAL)



  
 Notary Public