

### Coconut Telegraph

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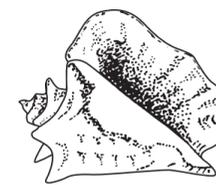
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### Editorial continued

manager of that corporation.

Those invoices were paid by the Monroe County Clerk of Court using funds allocated to the State Attorney's county budget. On Dec. 6, 2012 Dennis Ward wrote Gardi a glowing reference that still appears on Gardi's ViaVende website under customer comments. On Dennis Ward's campaign website it says that he wants to "Bring back integrity and transparency to the State Attorney's office." Oh really!?

After Ward lost the Democratic primary to Catherine Vogel he went on US1 Radio 104.1 for an interview with radio host Bill Becker. When asked to comment on the race, Ward replied, live on the air and heard as far away as Orlando, (and while he was still State Attorney), "They got this little guy named Eddie Perez, got like a heroin bag on his side, going around tearing down my signs and ... they just put [their signs] up wherever they wanted to put them up, and that's sad to say for the chief law enforcement officer of the county to be doing that stuff," according to the lawsuit filed by Perez in Orange County Circuit Court. None of Ward's



tirade was true, and Perez filed a \$15,000 lawsuit for slander against the disgraced babbling former State Attorney.

Ward dragged his feet on that too, and he finally settled out of court for \$10,000 a week before the court date. In addition he was fined \$2,500 by the Orlando judge for Contempt of Court.

In 2014, Ward won a seat on the Islamorada Village Council after losing the State Attorney race to Catherine Vogel.

Last year his co-councilwoman and the mayor of Islamorada Deb Gillis was beaten by a man with a toilet plunger stick at her home. The man who beat her hired Dennis Ward to represent him. Ward took the case, once again showing how much he likes to make things uncomfortable for those around him.

Ward is no longer a member of the Masonic Temple in the Florida Keys.

For more information read my editorial in last month's Coconut Telegraph at www.theconchtelegraph.com.

## Editorial: Dennis Ward: A Checkered Record

Congratulations to Catherine Vogel for once again receiving the Ocean Reef endorsement for State Attorney. The super-exclusive Ocean Reef community, whose membership roster has been described as a Who's Who of Fortune 500 company CEOs, and which is predominately Republican, has chosen to endorse Vogel. They've chosen a Democrat over Dennis Ward, who switched to being a Republican after losing four years ago.

Vogel has 30 years of experience as a prosecutor and has proven her professionalism many times, which is exactly why we need to keep her working for us.

Some more disturbing

facts about Dennis Ward's lack of professionalism have come across my desk that the public deserves to know.

When Ward was a Miami policeman, on April 16, 1985 at 12:30 PM, Ward was a passenger with other off-duty police officers, in a vehicle that was involved in an accident in Miami. According to the police report, all 3 officers appeared to have been drinking heavily.

"Upon determining that Officer Dennis Ward was a passenger in the vehicle, it was realized that he was supposed to have been working on this date but had called off (due to) sickness in family," the report says. Ward received a reprimand

for conduct unbecoming to a police officer and he was never promoted off the street. That was reported in July 2009.

Ward's office investigated and determined that a violation had occurred. The case sat unprosecuted until the statute of limitations expired.

During the time he was serving as Monroe County State Attorney, one of his buddies on the School Board violated the Sunshine Law (in 2007). The case was closed on June 14, 2013 because the statute of limitations had run out. Do you think Ward dragged his feet to protect his buddy?

Florida Statute 112.313(3)

prohibits any government agency from purchasing goods or services from any business entity in which an employee of the agency has a material interest or ownership. Matthew Gardi was employed as the IT Director hired by former State Attorney Dennis Ward from Apr. 16, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2012.

During his time of employment Gardi's starting pay was \$5,833.33 per month. On 8 separate occasions, while employed by Dennis Ward, Matt Gardi submitted invoices totaling \$5,291.66 from ViaVende, LLC. Matthew Gardi was sole owner, the registered agent and

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