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March 4, 2011

**An Open Letter to the Illinois Appellate Court**

The Honorable Justice P. Scott Neville  
The Honorable Justice Patrick J. Quinn  
The Honorable Justice John O. Steele  
c/o: The Clerk's Office  
The Illinois Appellate Court, First District  
160 North La Salle Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 1400  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312-793-5484

Case Name: Steve Dei v. Tumara Food Mart, Inc.  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Case #: 2007 L 5875**  
Illinois Appellate Court Case #: 1-09-1749  
Illinois Supreme Court Case #: 111889  
Our client: Plaintiff-appellant Steve Dei

In Re: Plaintiff's Counsel 'Lanre O. Amu's Request for Leave to Check out the Common Law Record to Prepare Plaintiff's Petition for Leave to Appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court, Humble Request for an *Investigation of Judge Lynn M. Egan's Conduct*, and for Internal Reform to Tackle Abuse of Judicial Discretion and *Corruption by Some Judges.*

Dear Justices:

A couple of weeks ago, I approached the Clerk of the Illinois Appellate Court to check out the common law record in this case in preparation of filing Plaintiff's Petition for Leave to Appeal your decision to the Illinois Supreme Court, but I was told by the clerk that I had to write you and state the reason why I needed the common law record before it can be released to me. I now seize that opportunity to write why the record is needed, the need for an investigation, reform, and also address the micro and macro implications of your decision for the new African Immigrants some 145 years after the "Thirteenth Amendment" to the United States Constitution

abolished slavery and exploitation in the United States. I hope we can agree that in the United States of today, the consensus is that everyone is entitled to equal protection of the law, including in our Courts. The noble notion of “Equal Justice for All” irrespective of one’s race creed or color derives from this basic concept. This is only fair for any nation on God’s Earth, more so an immigrant nation like the United States of America.

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A Synopsis of the Provocative Issue in this Case from ’Lanre O. Amu’s Perspective:

*In this case, American Family Insurance Company found itself in a difficult situation with a default judgment entered against its insured. American Family Insurance Company then used its substantial influence to fix the case in Judge Lynn M. Egan’s courtroom at the Daley Center in Chicago, Illinois. This is how: knowing that the case was pending before Judge Lynn M. Egan, American Family Insurance Company hired Judge Lynn M. Egan’s brother Matthew J. Egan’s law firm Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered, to prosecute the petition to vacate default judgment before Judge Lynn M. Egan. During the months of legal wrangling before Judge Lynn Egan, plaintiff and his lawyer (both African Immigrants) were intentionally kept in the dark about this link and collusion between Judge Lynn M. Egan and the defense. Plaintiff’s counsel ’Lanre O. Amu knew instinctively from Judge Lynn M. Egan mini rulings that Judge Lynn M. Egan was not thinking straight, but Amu was at a loss why this was happening in a courtroom. The flawed reasoning and decision of Judge Lynn Egan in favor of American Family Insurance Company’s interest was immediately appealed to the Illinois Appellate Court in expectation that the Appellate Court will see through the nonsense and correct the situation. Instead of the Illinois Appellate Court doing the right thing, the Appellate Court simply rubber stamped and affirmed the flawed ruling of Judge Egan in favor of American Family Insurance’s interest. Even when the Appellate Court was made aware of the relationship between Judge Lynn M. Egan and the defense law firm, the Appellate Court did nothing. The matter was simply swept under the rug. That is unacceptable. I am determined to do all within my power to do to remove the rug and expose the matter to the entire world whatever the personal cost. Plaintiff’s attorney ’Lanre O. Amu has called for investigation into corrupt practices by some judges in at least three separate cases involving big insurance companies<sup>1</sup>. To date, nothing tangible has been heard of these calls for investigation. Its simply been the lone voice of a person in the wilderness. The financial toll of the corruption alleged in each case alone is enough to bankrupt a solo practitioner. How can a solo lawyer go against insurance companies within the Court system as it currently is? Might*

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<sup>1</sup> The other two cases where attorney ’Lanre O. Amu called for *Judicial corruption investigations* besides this case are:

**Sara Balakar v. Romanucci & Blandin et al.**, Appellate Court Docket Numbers 1-09-1606, 1-09-2994 & 1-10-0581 (pending in the Illinois Appellate Court) and **Estate of Tunbi Majekodunmi v. Advocate Health Care, et al.**, Appellate Court Docket Number 1-10-2222. *Judicial corruption influenced the outcome in these three cases. A thorough investigation is needed to expose this fact.* Each of one of these three cases pits the interests of an African Immigrant against that of connected insurance companies and their lawyers in Court.

*must not make right. That is the issue. Slavery ended Centuries ago in the United States of America where every person save the Native Americans immigrated from somewhere into this land. The African-American and the African Immigrant Communities need lawyers from within their ranks with meaningful access to the Courts and artificial roadblocks **must not** be created in their path to progress. Never again is Now! Evil can only prevail when good People sit down and do nothing and say nothing. That is the issue.*

The facts:

On February 17, 2007, Steve Dei, a cab driver, an African Immigrant and a Citizen of the United States, drove his taxi cab to a gas station-mini Mart called Tumara Food Mart, Inc., located at 2941 East 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, (right by US-41 highway on the South side) in Chicago, Illinois. Steve Dei alleged that he slipped and fell on mixture of snow, ice and grease and broke both the fibula and tibia bones of the left leg as he walked from the gas pump to the cashier to pay for gasoline. Mr. Dei retained Attorney 'Lanre Amu, an African Immigrant to represent him in the case. A lawsuit was filed. The Cook County deputy sheriff in his official capacity served the cashier (an adult male) on duty at the gas station (Tumara Food Mart, Inc.) with the summons and complaint. The manager at Tumara Food Mart, Inc., a college graduate, faxed the summons and complaint to the insurance company within a couple of days of service by the sheriff. The American Family Insurance Company attorney failed to defend the case and a default judgment in the amount of \$273,230.02 was entered by Judge Lynn M. Egan against the defendant on January 4, 2008. On July 10, 2008, a citation to collect judgment was commenced by plaintiff's attorney 'Lanre O. Amu.

***To vacate the judgement, the attorneys for American Family Insurance Company conspired and fabricated a scheme which really should be obvious to any right thinking judge presiding over the case. American Family Insurance Company hired Judge Lynn M. Egan's brother Matthew J. Egan's law firm named Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered<sup>2</sup> to present their petition to vacate the judgement before Judge Lynn M. Egan. They also apparently coached the gas station cashier (an adult male) to lie under Oath that he did not know who a uniformed Cook County deputy Sheriff was, and that he did not recall that the sheriff gave handed him the summons and the complaint while he was on duty at the gas station on June 22, 2007. (Because service of court summons and complaint on a dummy with no intelligence who does not understand the significance of being handed those court papers by a County Sheriff is not effective service on the dummy's employer).***

Judge Lynn Egan is a trial judge. She presides over cases worth millions of dollars in damages. ***In everyone of the jury trials Judge Lynn M. Egan presides over she is duty bound to vet each potential jurors to ensure that any juror that knows any party or attorney in the case is removed and does not serve as a juror on the case.*** The connection between Judge Lynn M. Egan and the defense, the conflicts, and schemes were not disclosed to plaintiff and his lawyer

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew J. Egan is an Equity partner in the Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered law firm.

(both African Immigrants). ***Only the presiding Judge Lynn Egan and the attorney(s) for American Family Insurance Company and the attorneys for Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered knew that Judge Lynn Egan was not supposed to be presiding over the petition to vacate judgment filed on behalf of American Family Insurance Company, because the relationship between her and the defense created a conflict of interest where she cannot be a fair and impartial judge of the dispute.*** An important rule in life is to do unto others as you would like others to do unto you. If Judge Lynn M. Egan or her loved one was in dire straits and in David versus Goliath litigation before a judge, she would not agree to the very type of situation she imposed on the plaintiff and plaintiff's counsel who are both African Immigrants.

***When the gas station cashier (an adult male) testified at his deposition on December 2, 2008 he said he did not know who a Uniformed Cook County Deputy Sheriff is and does not recall being served by one with summons and complaint on June 22, 2007. He apparently had been briefed on how to pervert justice at the Daley Center.*** He apparently had been briefed that his lie under Oath which was aimed at trying to undermine the case would be safe, withstand any challenge by the opponent, and carry the day. ***Plaintiff's counsel 'Lanre O. Amu subpoenaed the transcript of the courses the cashier took at Olive Harvey College in 1997. Judge Lynn Egan quashed the summons along with other summonses plaintiff's attorney issued in trying to expose or undermine a lie. By quashing attorney 'Lanre O. Amu's subpoena, Judge Lynn M. Egan, a Judge sworn under Oath of public office to be fair and impartial and uphold the law was now taking sides and obstructing justice by safeguarding perjury so she can rule in favor of American Family Insurance Company's interest in the case.*** Subpoena power is one of the most important powers a lawyer has. When a judge curtails an attorney's subpoena power, the judge adversely impacts that lawyer's effectiveness on behalf of his client in the courtroom. That is what Judge Egan did to plaintiff's counsel in this case.

After oral argument, Judge Lynn Egan did not make her final ruling face-to-face in the presence of the attorneys in open court, but instead she said she will think about the matter and fax her decision to the attorneys. The fax revealed that Judge Lynn M. Egan ruled in favor of American Family Insurance Company's interest, vacated the judgment, and immediately transferred the case to the presiding judge of the Law Division, Judge William Maddux for transfer to Judge William Taylor for all purposes thereafter.

In vacating the judgement ***Judge Lynn Egan wrote in her decision:***

***“ . . . there is nothing in the record to contradict Ahmed Sylla (Cashier) 's testimony that he did not understand the nature or import of the documents received [i.e., the summons and complaint he received from the uniformed Cook County Deputy Sheriff on June 22, 2007] . . . ” “Thus, the court did not obtain jurisdiction over Tumara Food Mart, Inc., rendering the [default judgment] void.”***

On reading Judge Lynn M. Egan's opinion, attorney 'Lanre O. Amu was in shock. Umair Nomani a college graduate was the assistant manager of the gas station. Here are excerpts of his deposition testimony:

*Beginning page (C00444) of Umair Nomani's deposition transcript*

*Question:       **How soon after you received it (the summons and complaint) did you fax it to the insurance agent?***

*Answer:         I would say – I faxed it over, I can't remember exactly if it was the day; if it was the following day; it was within a few days. I don't specifically. I can't give you a date.*

*Question:       Okay. So **within a couple of days?***

*Answer:         I faxed it.*

*Ending at page (C00445) of Umair Nomani's deposition transcript*

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*Beginning page (C00450) of transcript Umair Nomani's deposition transcript:*

*Question:       Did you inquire of any employees at Tumara Food mart, Inc., did anyone receive summons and complaint?*

*Answer:         That's not the first thing I ask when I walk into the gas station, whether the employees received anything. I saw it (summons and complaint) over there; I picked it up; and eventually faxed it.*

*Question:       Okay. Did you ask at any point in time, who received it?*

*Answer:         I never asked. I was told.*

*Question:       Who told you?*

*Answer:         Ahmed Silatt (Cashier)*

*Question:       When did he tell you?*

*Answer:         The following day (after it was served by sheriff), I guess, after he received it.*

*Question:       So Ahmed [Sylla] received summons and complaint, and two days later you found it?*

*Answer:         yeah*

*Question:       And he then told you that he was the one that received it.*

*Answer:         Yeah, he's the one that told me that he received it.*

*Question:       And you faxed it to the insurance company?*

*Answer:         Yes.*

*Question:       **And at the time that Ahmed Silatt received it (summons and complaint), his job title was a cashier?***

*Answer:         **Cashier.***

*End page C00450 of Umair Nomani's deposition transcript:*

Testimony of Cashier Ahmed Sylla at his Deposition:

Ahmed Sylla testified that prior to being served summons and complaint by the sheriff he had been to court representing himself alone without a lawyer and without an interpreter-this is

obviously relevant and contradicts Judge Egan's finding that the cashier did not know the nature or import of service of summons and complaint by a uniformed sheriff. Sylla testified he spoke English in his prior court and administrative hearings-Judge Egan ignored this in reaching her opinion. Sylla testified he attended Olive Harvey College in 1997-the Judge Egan ignored this and the subpoena sent to get his transcripts was quashed by Judge Egan on defense' motion to quash. Sylla testified he previously worked with one "Mr. John" at another gas station for four years. In Sylla's own words,"I used to be "a security guard". After Sylla realized what he blotted out at his deposition (of course there is a video of Sylla's deposition), Sylla then tried to back track and take back his confession about previously working as a security guard. Suddenly, Sylla did not remember the full name of "Mr. John" whom he worked for for 4 years. Sylla also did not remember the location where he worked for 4 years for Mr. John-Judge Egan ignored all of these in passing on Sylla's credibility. In Judge Egan's opinion, Sylla who previously worked as a security guard did not know the nature or import of the summons and complaint a uniformed sheriff served on him while he was on duty at the gas station. As a cashier for the gas Station (Tumara) Sylla testified that he sells lottery tickets; he sells gasoline; he accepts credit card and processes the transaction. Sylla testified he attends to customers that come to Citgo gas station (Tumara) in English. Sylla testified he has never worked with an interpreter to interact with customers at work. Sylla took the Illinois driver's written and practical test in English<sup>3</sup>. How much English is required for sheriff 's service of summons on a Citgo gas station cashier who already attends to customers in English on a daily basis? Sylla testified Asif or Umair Nomani (manager and assistant manager respectively) told him where to put papers. Sylla testified that there is no limit to the amount of cash he handles as a cashier at Citgo gas station (Tumara), its whatever he sells. Sylla testified when customers give money, and there is change to be given, he can count change and give change to the customer. Sylla testified that at the end of his shift as cashier, he subtracts the amount of cash he met in the register from the amount of cash in the register, he counts the number of cigarettes, the products he is leaving and writes them down. Sylla testified when the Citgo oil tanker comes to deliver gasoline in bulk, he receives the delivery. If someone comes to buy tobacco, Sylla can verify age with ID or driver's licence. To ignore these in passing on whether Sylla understood the nature or import of a uniformed sheriff serving him with summons is unfair to the plaintiff.

The Law in the State of Illinois and Case Law Concerning the Dispute. No one is above the law:

Illinois Statutory and case law are consistent and clear concerning service of summons on a private corporation such as Tumara Food Mart, Inc.

Illinois Law:

***735 ILCS 5/2-204 states, ". . . a private corporation may be served (1) by leaving a copy of the process with its registered agent or any officer or agent of the corporation found***

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<sup>3</sup> Sylla appeared with a Wolof (Gambian/Senegalese language) interpreter for his deposition.

*anywhere in the State*; or (2) in any other manner now or hereafter permitted by law.”

Illinois Case law:

*An employee may qualify as an agent. To meet the requirement of agency for purposes of service, the employee must have some responsibility or must be someone who can be expected to be responsible. For example, service on an intelligent company clerk who acted as receptionist and understood the importance of the service of summons was sufficient service on a private corporation. Megan v. L.B. Foster Co., 1 Ill.App 3d 1036, 275 NE2d 426 (2d Dist. 1971).*

By vacating the judgment, Judge Lynn M. Egan had stamped her imprint on the controversy between plaintiff an African Immigrant and the interest of American Family Insurance Company and its insured. An imprint which on reconsideration, other judges in the Circuit Court of Cook County will give comity. Judge Lynn Egan is the daughter of Retired Illinois Appellate Court Justice Edward J. Egan. Judge Lynn Egan believed she had clout within the court system and exudes this arrogance of “I can do what I want” as she made unfair rulings within the confines of courtroom 1904 at the Daley Center. Plaintiff’s attorney ’Lanre O. Amu, realized that asking Judge Taylor to vacate the flawed decision of Judge Lynn Egan was futile, and appealed this matter to the Illinois Appellate Court.

The appellate court Justices that heard this case are: Justice P. Scott Neville; Justice Patrick J. Quinn; and Justice John O. Steele. The Illinois Appellate Court in a 14 page opinion affirmed Judge Lynn Egan’s decision. The reasoning of the appellate court was reminiscent of the reasoning in the Dred Scott case. Plaintiff’s attorney petitioned the Illinois Appellate Court to reconsider its opinion by bringing out the flaws in their reasoning. Rather than take a honest look at the facts again, the Illinois Appellate Court in a second 15 paged opinion again affirmed Judge Lynn Egan’s decision. This time they dug in deeper into their flawed reasoning as if to spite the African Immigrant plaintiff and his African Immigrant lawyer.

*The door of meaningful access to the courts has now been shut in our faces as African Immigrants in the Circuit Court of Cook County, and in the Illinois Appellate Court in this case. Our next recourse under the law now is to the Illinois Supreme Court. That is why we need to check out the common law record to write our brief and cite to the common law record in making our case. In this case the financial might of American Family Insurance Company ( the billion dollar enterprise) is pitted against the meager financial resources a solo African Immigrant lawyer. American Family Insurance Company is proving so far that its how connected you are within our court system (i.e., its who you know) and not the true facts and the law that largely determines who wins major cases at the Daley Center Courthouse. So if you are not connected and you have not been admitted into the million dollar club, you take serious risk trying cases before some of these judges because the true facts and the law will play second fiddle to roadblocks and corruption. But that is not how our Court system is designed to work. With this kind of operation, African Immigrants are entrapped in sophisticated modern day slavery in the United States without protection or meaningful rights in our Courts. Just like the*

*Dred Scott decision, the full impact of this phenomenon will take decades to manifest on the streets of our society. Will the solution at that time be the building of more prisons and the maintenance of the new underclass in our society to keep the system running as we know it?*

It is noteworthy that Justice Steel aimed shots at McHenry County Judge Michael Chmiel during his trial for judicial misconduct. Talk is cheap they say. Justice Steel talked the talk in querying Judge Chmiel concerning judicial misconduct but when it came time for Justice Steel to walk the walk of his talk, with all due respect, Justice Steel in my humble opinion, fell into the same type of conduct for which he sharply and sternly criticized Judge Chmiel. Again, in my humble view, that smacks of hypocrisy. After all one who does wrong and one who is duty bound to arrest wrong or do something about wrong but instead turns a blind eye and does nothing are both as guilty. Both exercise the same mental state or scienter. Given the fact that Justice Steel was appraised of what Judge Lynn M. Egan did in this case but Justice Steel did nothing, what right does Justice Steel have criticizing or querying Judge Chmiel concerning misconduct?

Sirs, I need the common law record to articulate clearly to the Illinois Supreme Court why the Illinois Appellate Court erred in its reasoning and logic in this case. The two opinions issued by the Illinois Appellate Court are flawed and it is my hope that like the Dred Scott decision<sup>4</sup> it will serve as an eye opener to the world that meaningful access to our Courts to secure basic rights are being clandestinely and routinely denied to the new African Immigrants in the United States some 145 years after the abolition of slavery. The African Immigrant community is being

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<sup>4</sup> In 1857, in the case Dred Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393 (1857), the United States Supreme Court composed exclusively of white men ruled that black people of African descent imported as slaves into the United States and continued to be held as slaves (and their descendants, whether or not they were slaves) were not protected by the United States Constitution and could never be Citizens of the United States. The United States Supreme Court also held that the United States Congress (the House of Representatives and the Senate combined) had no authority to prohibit slavery in federal territories and that, because slaves were not United States Citizens, they could not sue in Court. (i.e., Africans have no access to the Courts in America) Furthermore, the United States Supreme Court ruled that slaves, as chattels or private property, could not be taken away from their white owners (masters) without the due process of law. That United States Supreme Court's decision was written by Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney. Today, in my humble view, the plight of the African Immigrants in our Courts both state and federal (including the notorious sham jury trials that are reminiscent of the movie "To Kill a Mocking Bird") have fared in substance no better than in the Dred Scott days some 153 years ago. While today Africans can in fact sue in court, there are systems in place to nullify those court filings. While in the past these wrongs were open and legal. Now these wrongs are latent and the government and some judges turn blind eyes to the violations. The real term implications of this state of affairs for these new African Immigrants into the United States and for Africa as a Continent is devastating. But why so in a so called democratic and humanitarian world order?

disadvantaged and the full impact of what is going on may not be evident in the streets until a few more decades has passed.

The Canons of Judicial Ethics Involved in this Matter:

1. An Independent and Honorable Judiciary Is Indispensable to Justice in Our Society. A Judge Should Participate in Establishing, Maintaining, and Enforcing, and Should Personally Observe, High Standards of Conduct So That the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary May Be Preserved. (Rule 61 of the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct) With all due respect, in this case, Judge Lynn M. Egan did not establish high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved. Judge Lynn Egan a judicial officer cannot be independent in resolving a dispute where her brother Matthew J. Egan's law firm is defending and the African Immigrant plaintiff and his African Immigrant lawyer are kept in the dark (blind) about this arrangement. High standard of conduct required of a judge means that even the appearance of impropriety must be avoided. Moreover, Judge Lynn M. Egan's bias in this case was so blatant and glaring that 'Lanre O. Amu, plaintiff's lawyer was very aware of it prior to discovering that the Judge Lynn M. Egan's brother's law firm was the defense firm.
2. A Judge Should Respect and Comply with the Law and Should Conduct Himself or Herself at All Times in a Manner That Promotes Public Confidence in the Integrity and Impartiality of the Judiciary. (Rule 62A of the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct). In this case, Judge Lynn Egan was not impartial in the fact finding process. Judge Lynn Egan ignored the law in the state of Illinois concerning service of process on the defendant. Finally, Judge Lynn Egan engaged in ethical violation in presiding over the case.
3. A Judge Should Not Allow the Judge's Family, Social, or Other Relationships to Influence the Judge's Judicial Conduct or Judgment. (Rule 62B of the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct). In this case, Judge Lynn Egan allowed her family relationships to influence her conduct and judgment. Its hard to get into Judge Lynn Egan's head. But her decision in light of the true facts reveals she violated this code of conduct.
4. A Judge Shall Disqualify Himself or Herself in a Proceeding in Which the Judge's Impartiality Might Reasonably Be Questioned.(63C of the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct). In this case, Judge Lynn Egan violated this code of conduct.
5. Judge Egan engaged in obstruction of justice when she quashed subpoenas plaintiff's counsel 'Lanre O. Amu issued to compel the production of the transcript of courses the cashier took in 1997 at Olive Harvey College. Reasonable attempts by Mr. Dei's attorney to subpoena records that could expose the lie the cashier put forth that he did not know who a uniformed Cook County Deputy sheriff was was frustrated by Judge Lynn Egan when she quashed the summonses. That is classic unfair hampering of a lawyer from doing his job and obstruction of justice by a judge.

## Conclusion, Humble Request for Investigation and Call for Reform in the Court System

- I. Request for leave to check out the common law record to prepare plaintiff's Petition for Leave to Appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court.
- ii. Request for an independent investigation into Judge Lynn M. Egan's conduct and other corrupt practices alleged within the court system. Conduct which frustrate African Immigrant's and perhaps some other group's rights of meaningful access to the Courts and fair and impartial resolution of their disputes.
- iii. The institution of policies and procedures that enables the court system to police abuse and corruption by some judges. That reform be instituted to make all judges and justices MANDATED reporter of ethical violations of not just lawyers, but of fellow judges on pain of sanctions or removal from the bench for failure to report such abuses. In this case, with the knowledge of the ethical violations, no judge, not even the appellate court justices did anything that I know of concerning Judge Lynn Egan's abuses. ***Judge Egan abused not only the fact finding process in this case, she also ignored the law she was sworn to uphold concerning service of process in Illinois, and furthermore she engaged in ethical violations.*** Instead of correcting and/or reporting Judge Egan's misdeeds, the appellate court in fact came to her aid by affirming her flawed ruling. The system of appellate review utterly failed to correct this misdeed.
- iv. That judges and justices undergo annual ethics training which simulate real life situations they will face on the bench. This can be in form of multiple choice ethics questions or similar format test or training. This will serve as an annual or constant reminder to all judicial officers of the standard of justice demanded of them by the law.
- v. The system should rethink the idea of perpetuating judges in the law division where the lure of insurance companies and their capacity to influence the weak and feeble can be strong. A way should be instituted to evaluate the need to rotate judges out of this division every few years.
- vi. Monetary contributions of attorneys or law firms to judges and justices should be reformed and rules of mandatory recusal on pain of sanctions for both attorneys and judges and justices be formalized and instituted.
- vii. Reform should be instituted that prevents justices from writing opinions whenever they are reasonably aware that corruption has infiltrated the fact finding process of the legal proceedings presented to them. Such reform will prevent the two flawed opinions written by Appellate Court Justices Quinn, Neville and Steel in this case. The two appellate court opinions one of which will now be published in the Illinois Case Reporter law books unless recalled amount to a display of intellectual dishonesty. It is wrong for law student to be reading opinions in the future and not be aware that its not real, and that the

corruption behind the opinion has been white washed.

This is an indication that the court system as it is currently structured is incapable of policing corruption and abuse of office from within its ranks. Yet no amount of investigation by external bodies can uncover all of the corruption that goes on in the court system. The only parties best able to police and uncover corruption within the court system are the litigants, lawyers, judges and justices who are intricately involved with the issues in each case. A better approach is for the court to police itself before external measures are brought to bear to police the court system.

The corruption uncovered here happens to be one of a few that can be proved. The tip of the ice berg so to speak. In the vast majority of the acts and misdeed, there is no tangible evidence to hold on to. Its just a hunch. The vast majority of corruption are covered under the discretionary acts and reasoning of the judge or justice.

Nothing said in the letter is meant to denigrate the fact that there are many many many honest and fair judges and justices within the Illinois Court System. I can also testify to this based on my continuous practice in our Courts since 1996. However, even one unfair or corrupt judge or justice is one too many given the harm that is done to lives of persons who appears in court seeking a fair and impartial resolution of life issues and the system falters due to corruption. A miscarriage of justice concerning one life can destroy that life. That is tragic. That is unacceptable.

The courts system, both state or federal must improve their record on respecting the rights of everyone including those of the new African Immigrants in our midst. Enough of the strained and silly logic designed to limit the rights of the African Immigrant or turn him or her out of court with nothing. The treatment accorded Africans in these forums where there are no cameras is very telling of the hypocrisy in our society. The African Immigrants is put through an elaborate labyrinth akin to a game of musical chairs in which when the music abruptly stops it's the African Immigrant that is the only one left standing, short changed, and holding an empty bag. That design is akin to modern day slavery that the whole world needs to know about. Good people need to come to our aid.

When my client and/or I walk into the courtroom, we are not interested in the title or position of anyone. We simply seek justice. Often times we find to our shock that the black robbed person we are compelled to deal with has compromised his or her position. Corruption destroys lives. When litigants experience the failure of government or justice, there is a justifiable reason to ask why?

The Macro Implication of Judge Lynn M. Egan's Conduct as Perceived by 'Lanre O. Amu.

I will be remise in my responsibility to frankly write you if I do not address the macro basis of the problem my client and I faced as new African Immigrants in the United States. While

individually we may be new, the African history and the problems that the original Africans in this land and their descendants face in the United States predates even the history of the Irish in the United States. The problem derives directly from the Constitution of the United States which gives whites the upper hand in virtually everything and fails to enshrine the rights of nonwhites into the constitution. The fundamental God given rights of any race of people in a country should not be subject to the majority of tallied votes in an election (be it election for judges, congressmen, or president). Those fundamental rights must be enshrined in the Constitution-not as an afterthought amendment or an appendage to a constitution. The flaw in the Constitution is evident in how the rights of the Native Americans who were met in this land was ignored virtually everywhere including in the executive branch of government, the Congress, and the Courts. Sham legal opinions were written in the Courts of this land to legitimize injustice to the Native Americans on the notion that might makes right. The flaw in the Constitution is also evident in how the rights of Africans who were forcibly against their will brought into this land to build this country with their sweat and labor (and those of their descendants) were also ignored everywhere including in the executive branch of government, the congress, and the Courts. Again, sham legal opinions were written in the Courts to legitimize this injustice. Over the centuries, only cosmetic changes have taken place concerning the fundamental and basic rights of the African peoples and their descendants in this land. The rights to these African Peoples to self determination and to champion their own destiny have been stymied. The same dubious laws are still being churned out of the Courts today as they were in the Dred Scott days. This time, the race or color of the person in black robe churning out the law becomes irrelevant as he or she is simply programmed to do what the system compels. An ironic situation in which you see the black judge in black robe as part of the criminal justice system. A system that incarcerates a disproportionate percentage of black youth at their prime of life. I guess self preservation comes first, so whatever the system compels that you do you do to get along and stay alive.

The courtrooms of America state or federal essentially serves the interest the majority race, the interest of all other race is secondary. The minority is thus programmed into the dubious logic of the majority as a condition for advancement on the job. This type of programming is mentally destabilizing and self destructive to a minority group.

The African American child is deprived of the correct primary emphasis on the history of self which is a natural inclination of every human being on earth. Instead the system gives the African American child a Eurocentric education in a way that naturally suggests to the child that this is something more desirable than primary education about self and secondary education about everyone else. The history of Africa, Africa's problems, and its peoples are also somewhat distorted in this part of the world. The implication here is that the high incarceration rate, the high drop out rate, the high dysfunctional family rate, high poverty rate, the high unemployment rate, etc., etc., that plagues us the African-American community is a result of our blackness or African origin and that the problem can be solved by giving blacks a Eurocentric education. This when in fact the right view is that these problems in the black community are mere symptoms of injustice that black people face and the relics of problems yet to be resolved in the United States. The injustice largely responsible for Africa's infra-structural underdevelopment is never taught,

and nobody really cares. Dubious suggestions are put out there that Africans are just less able than whites and that is what is responsible for Africa's present condition. Children of Irish, Jewish, Italian, etc., origin do not have to deal with this burden.

With tremendous scientific and technological advances in the United States, little progress has been made in genuine humanitarian advances that seek a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the problem of race. It behooves us as human beings for the leaders of all ethnic groups not to sit down and have frank talks to discuss a new fair and equitable foundation for coexistence of all of God's people including White Americans, Native Americans and African Americans in these United States. We must start thinking of a new constitution for mutual coexistence where the rights of the minority and protection of those rights are so enshrined in the constitution that no executive branch of government, no Congress, and no Courts anywhere in these United States dare tamper with those fundamental rights as has been done for centuries, including in this case. The fundamental and basic rights of the African-American people to survive cannot be subject to majority vote of any human being regardless of race or color at an election, in any Court, in any Executive branch of Government or in any Congress.

Over the centuries, we have seen the devastating effects of the flaws in the constitution in the lives of minorities who have struggled to attain equality under it. It's been an illusion. It is about time that the right leadership emerge from within the African American community in this great nation and begin to think outside of the box about a peaceful way forward for the betterment and welfare of the African American people.

A system that allows Judge Lynn M. Egan an Irish American to dispossess Steve Dei an African American in courtroom 1904 at the Daley Center in this age just as Dred Scott was dispossessed in 1857 is fundamentally flawed and is provocative. The system gives a person from Ireland because of race the power and authority to dispossess a person from Ghana, Africa in a courtroom in the United States. How is that different from slavery other than the fact that what transpired in the courtroom is not visible to the world as it used to be? When a community is dispossessed, crimes, incarceration, and all types of ills must necessarily rise in that community. For the government to sit by and allow us to be dispossessed in civil court and in employment, which are means of survival for any human being, and for the government's agent in black robe to then sit in judgment in our arraignment in criminal court for crimes we must commit in trying to survive is hypocritical and a fraud. A defendant in such arraignment ought to be able to cross claim or counter claim against the government for allowing the dispossession that inevitably led to criminal conduct. So instead of the "United States v. the African Immigrant on the crime case" the whole case should really be the "United States vs. the African Immigrant on the crime case" combined with the African Immigrant vs. the United States Government on dispossession that led to the criminality in the first place". But where is the forum where this matter can be fairly adjudicated? Who will be the fair and impartial judge?

It is this type of injustice that leads people to revolt and demand fundamental change in all relationships including a new Constitution enshrining relationships. We have seen this happen

and in fact still happening now in the Arab countries in the middle East. History has taught us that it can happen anywhere oppressed people are ready for real change, including here in the United States of America.

So while my client and I will appreciate the correction of this injustice, we are also mindful that the problem has a root cause. As at today unless I am mistaken, there is no single black person in the United States Senate. How is that fair to black peoples in the United States, more so given the disproportionate and enormous problems blacks face in the United States; the high incarceration rate, high unemployment rate, high crime rate, etc. I am sure that if the same percentage of whites youths as black youths are in the jails of this country in their primes those whites in the Senate today will quickly fashion some legislation in a forth night to address the root cause of the white youth's problems and get those white youths out of jail into productive living in society so they can enjoy their lives. Who in the Senate of today can cares for black people's problems like black people will care for their own pressing problems? How can a constitution that allows or perpetuates this condition be ideal for all humanity in this country? A constitution that enables that level of disparity to persist is flawed in addressing the needs of a people. It does not value all of humanity equally as an ideal constitution should do. Why should I in fact be blaming Lynn Egan for treating me and my client who are African Immigrants like trash when that is what inevitably happens under this type of arrangement?

Children of immigrants from all parts of Europe in America do not have to face the problems African Americans and African Immigrants are condemned to. They can scale the bobby traps that hold blacks spell bound to the bottom of American society. All of these unfairness and nonsense is traceable directly to the Constitution.

In all of human history, it has been confirmed over and over again that when a people unite and resolve in their hearts and minds to force change, no amount of intimidation can stop them. No doubt there will be a price to pay, but if the people do not waiver in their resolve for change and are ready to pay whatever the price for change, THEN CHANGE MUST HAPPEN. The Darkest hour is just before the Dawn.

I will meet with anyone at any time to discuss this matter. This treatment to African Immigrants in this day and age is an affront and a provocation. Africans and their descendants in this country are not fools. For someone originally from Ireland to defraud someone originally from Ghana or Nigeria in the United States Courts simply because one is white and in authority the other is black and not in authority in this day and age, corruption aside, it is an attempt to re-institute slavery in a new more sophisticated and complicated form. We reject it. I am not advocating violence. I will not advocate violent change of anything. But I cannot be intimidated. I will work with anyone anywhere for peace and justice. We appeal to people of conscience of every race for assistance during this difficult experience.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of the issues I have presented in this letter.

Sincerely,  
/s/ 'Lanre O. Amu  
'Lanre O. Amu  
Attorney at Law and an African Immigrant.

Certification

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, 735 ILCS 5/109, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief, and as to such matters therein stated the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

<u>'Lanre O. Amu</u>	<u>/s/ 'Lanre O. Amu</u>	<u>3/4/11</u>
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