

# Angelo Paul Leone “Acquitted”

by Loudon County Jury on  
Thursday, September 8, 2011

Why is it that nothing has appeared in the Daily Edition, The News Herald and the Knoxville News Sentinel on the recently concluded assault case against the defendant Mr. Angelo Leone, Tellico Village Property Owner, and his accuser Mr. Winston Blazer, General Manager, TVPOA? Could it be that the very same people who thought this would be explosive news about how Mr. Blazer was assaulted in his office just may come back and haunt them should Mr. Leone be found “**NOT GUILTY**”?

Why was it that the Daily Edition produced “The Tellico Village Special Edition”, on [Monday August 31, 2009](#), that carried Mr. Leone’s mug shot of his arrest on their front page and, then produced another “The Special Tellico Village Edition”, on [Wednesday February 16, 2011](#), by Dan Bell about Mr. Leone’s legal counsel, Mr. Scott McCluen, not appearing in court on February 9, 2011 for his trial? The News Herald also published the same information on [Wednesday March 2, 2011](#). Could it all have been staged by those with access to “friends” wanting to make Mr. Leone and Mr. McCluen appear in the wrong?

The News Herald, on [Monday August 31, 2009](#), ran a story, authored by Tammy Creek, showing Mr. Leone’s mug shot with the accompany text quoting the TVPOA’s Public Relations Manager, Mr. John Cherry, and the arresting Officer Deputy Chris Jenkins. In statements attributed to Deputy Jenkins he concluded that Mr. Leone was the “primary aggressor in the altercation who came to the POA offices “intentionally, knowingly and recklessly” causing “bodily harm and contact” to Mr. Winston (Blazer), which was “extremely offensive and provocative” and caused reasonable “fear of imminent bodily injury”.

Mr. Cherry was also quoted in her article as saying “On Aug. 24, we had an unfortunate situation in which authorities had to be called to ensure the safety and security of employees within the POA offices”. He was further quoted as saying “We feel this was an isolated incident”.

Then on [Saturday, February 26, 2011](#), the Knoxville News Sentinel ran their article from Staff and Wire Reporters about Mr. McCluen not showing up for Mr. Leone’s February 9, 2011 trial.

One has to ask why weren’t these news papers and/or their Staff and Wire Reporters in the Court last Thursday?

Mr. Leone’s trial began in the Loudon County Courthouse at 9:00am last Thursday, September 8, 2011, with the jury selection. The Assistant District Attorney General Mr. Frank Harvey was representing the prosecution and Mr. Scott McCluen was representing Mr. Leone. After a few pre-emptive challenges to potential jurors the trial got under way at 9:45am with the seating of the twelve jurors selected.

Testifying on behalf of the Prosecution were Deputy Chris Jenkins, Mr. Winston Blazer, Ms. Patti Robichaud and Mr. Kevin Alfont. Testifying on behalf of the Defendant, Mr. Leone, were Mr. Leone’s wife Patricia, Mr. Richard Anklin, Mr. Kenneth DeBoer and Mr. Chuck Bailey.

Mr. Leone’s testimony centered on the fact that he went to see Mr. Blazer about his suspicions that the posting on [Topix](#) (an online blog site) were initiated by persons within the POA staff because the [Topix](#) posts were up within days of his picking up an application for the TVPOA Board of Directors position.

He further testified that Mr. Blazer did not investigate his concerns, in spite of the POA's Policy to do just that, and that he was summarily "dismissed by Mr. Blazer as being bitten by the snake".

When Mr. Leone got up to leave Mr. Blazer's office a scuffle occurred as Mr. Leone tried to retrieve the [Topix](#) posting he had brought to Mr. Blazer's office. It was at that moment that Mr. Blazer shouted out "call the police" and restrained Mr. Leone from leaving his office.

Mr. Leone believing he had done nothing wrong sat down and waited for the police to arrive.

The prosecution's witnesses detailed how Mr. Leone was the aggressor and that Mr. Blazer was the victim. While Mr. Leone's witnesses were only character witnesses except for Mr. Anklin; who testified that the application for the Board of Directors, one of the subjects of the vile [Topix](#) postings, was procured for him and not Mr. Leone. And, he further testified that the only people at the POA who would have had that information were Mr. Blazer and his Administrative Assistant Ms. Sherry Snodgrass. Ms. Snodgrass was the only person at the POA permitted to dispense the applications.

The only sufficient thing that came out in the trial was that two men had a disagreement; behind closed doors and that none of the witnesses for the prosecution had witnessed the supposed altercation.

Upon closing arguments, the jury was entrusted with the case and adjourned for their deliberations. About forty minutes into their deliberations, the jury asked the Judge Eugene Elben for an interpretation of "reckless". The Judge provided one to them. After another fifteen minutes the jury emerged from the jury room and pronounced Mr. Angelo Paul Leone "NOT GUILTY". When each juror was polled by the Judge they each stated in the affirmative to their conclusion of Mr. Leone being "NOT GUILTY"!

Again, one has to wonder why we have not seen any of this from these three news sources.

And, where were the TVPOA's Board of Director members during this trial? They were sure to make it to every court date in the lawsuit brought against the POA by Messer's Hutcherson and Anklin.

Were they too busy to witness, first hand, this outcome? Or was it because they too had denied Mr. Leone an audience on his allegation? Or could it have been that the TVPOA's previous Board President during this time, Mr. Joe Marlette, had earlier written to Mr. Leone that they did not find any reason to investigate.

Maybe now they will because they should have done so previously.

At the very least the TVPOA Board needs to present Mr. Leone with a public apology, rescind his suspension from attending POA meetings and they need to remind Mr. Blazer that all of this would not have occurred if his management style was that of a General Manager truly concerned about the issues brought to him by a Property Owner of Tellico Village.

Can they now be counted on to be as fair and impartial as the good citizens of Loudon County that served on this case?

And, how will Mr. Blazer spin the outcome of this case to his Staff, the Board members and the rest of the Property Owners of Tellico Village? After all, his complaint against Mr. Leone was proven false in the Court room. Will he be able to apologize and make amends for his actions now?