

# AUSTIN CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

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A Travis County jury believed a black man over a white woman. The Chronicle's Sarah Marloff's response is to help two disgruntled ADAs violate an expunction order, slander the defense and criticize a jury. We assume the Chronicle published such a biased political piece for one purpose: to sway the upcoming County Court 4 election.

Not long ago, a black man accused of sexually assaulting a white woman would not even receive a trial in this country – he would be lynched. If the race of the participants were reversed, would Ms. Marloff still be so outraged? There are many ways of victimizing people. Domestic violence is one way. Falsely accusing someone of sexual assault is another. Race-based prosecution is yet another. All are dangerous.

Ms. Marloff conveniently overlooks that it is the role of a judge to be impartial. Samantha's story is not about the injustices done to survivors of sexual assault. It is a brazen attempt to keep a finger on the scales of justice. This was an editorial suggesting the black man's attorney—a woman of color—must have cheated ethical rules in order to win.

The jurors in this case returned a verdict of acquittal because they did not believe the crime had occurred. Period. It is irresponsible to criticize the verdict of a jury simply because it does not fit your personal agenda. It is irresponsible and illegal for members of the DAs office to openly comment on an expunged case. It is irresponsible and reprehensible for the Chronicle to participate in the poisoning of future jury pools.

ACDLA has made no endorsement in this judicial race; however, we are deeply concerned that the Chronicle questions the fitness of defense attorneys for the Judicial bench because of their work against systemic racism, mass incarceration and wrongful conviction.

Krista A. Chacona  
Presiding Director

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