

6 of 49 DOCUMENTS

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HEADLINE: Dumond, ex-attorney dissolve ill will LR lawyer says he, convicted rapist have dropped suits against each other

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BODY:

Castrated and convicted rapist Wayne Dumond and his former Little Rock lawyer are back on speaking -- or at least writing -- terms again.

On Thursday, John Wesley Hall Jr. confirmed that the lawsuits he and Dumond had filed against each other were dismissed by mutual request.

Pulaski County Circuit Judge John Plegge signed a brief order of dismissal earlier Thursday.

"I wrote to Dumond and told him neither one of us stood to benefit from this case," Hall said a few hours later when asked how the disagreement was resolved.

He said that in the letter he offered to trade dismissals: If Dumond signed a document agreeing to drop the lawsuit he filed Dec. 20, 1996, against Hall, Hall would sign a document agreeing to drop the countersuit he filed Jan. 21.

"He wrote a real nice letter back and said he was thinking about the same with me," Hall said. "I actually didn't expect to hear from him."

In his lawsuit, Dumond accused Hall of misusing the \$ 110,000 trust fund established from a settlement Dumond was awarded in a lawsuit that Hall filed on his behalf against former St. Francis County Sheriff Coolidge Conlee for publicly displaying Dumond's severed testicles.

Dumond was castrated in his home in 1984 by two masked intruders as he awaited trial in the rape of a Forrest City teen-ager. He was eventually convicted.

In his counterclaim, Hall contended that Dumond had breached a contract and should have paid Hall substantial legal fees. Hall said in the countersuit that before the breach, he had never intended to try to collect for representing Dumond in the criminal case unless Dumond "came into money."

Dumond's December lawsuit against Hall was filed through Dan Ivy, a Fayetteville attorney Dumond fired in March.

Hall said Thursday that Dumond wrote that he regretted the lawsuit and explained that he had gotten bad advice.

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Hall said Dumond also wrote that he would like Hall to visit him at the prison, but Hall said he doesn't know when his schedule will allow it.

"It was time to get it over with," Hall said. "He wasn't going to get anything out of me, and I wasn't going to get anything out of him."

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