

Ohio Attorney Jailed Again Without Charges

By Greg Szymanski
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A disbarred Ohio attorney who uncovered massive state and federal corruption has been illegally jailed again for allegedly practicing law without a license.

Elsebeth Baumgartner has been held in the Erie County jail for 16 days without charges being filed, a proper arraignment or even the right to a bail hearing. She was put away without her due process and constitutional rights even being recognized similar in style to way political dissidents were treated in Nazi Germany and the old Soviet Union.

Called the ultimate travesty of justice by court observers and by her husband, Joe Baumgartner, this most recent jailing of Baumgartner illustrates the kangaroo court-like atmosphere present in Ohio, as her case also clearly illustrates a total breakdown of the rule of law and respect for the rights of an individual.

Held in jail as nothing more than a political prisoner based on 'judicial discretion gone haywire', Baumgartner was unavailable for comment. This most recent jail term adds to more than 244 days spent illegally behind bars for trumped-up crimes, including a recent 45 day jail stint for contempt of court, numerous days behind bars for unnecessary psychiatric evaluations and months in jail for merely speaking out at a city council meeting.

"This latest jailing is the worst thing I ever witnessed," said Baumgartner's husband, Joe, in a Wednesday telephone conversation. "There were never any charges filed and Judge David Knepper just decided to jail Else for illegally practicing law or giving out legal advice to a friend she met while in jail. It's simply ridiculous but she still is sitting in jail without any rights or even a proper arraignment."

Baumgartner said his wife's recent run-in with a corrupt Ohio judiciary came after prosecutors called a hearing, accusing Baumgartner of intimidating a witness in another related felony charge, as well as

practicing law without a license.

"What was strange," added Baumgartner's husband, "was that Judge Knepper ruled against the prosecutors, saying he didn't want to even go there with their accusations. He then recused himself from Else's case. That occurred on a Friday. Then out of the blue she was subpoenaed to be at a Monday hearing as a witness in another trial of her friend, Beth, who Else had befriended in jail.

"What happened after that was completely ridiculous as Knepper talked with Beth and the next thing you know, he orders Else to jail for practicing law without a license without any charges being filed. I think it was a set-up, but aw we speak she still is sitting in jail."

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