



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
LEHIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
455 HAMILTON STREET — P.O. BOX 1548
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18105
January 21, 1998

WILLIAM E. FORD
JUDGE

TELEPHONE (610) 820-3022
FACSIMILE (610) 820-3658

Eugene A. Wrona, Esquire
1021 N. Tenth Street
Whitchall, Pa. 18052

Re: Ternigan v. Hamouy
No. DR-89-1459

Dear Attorney Wrona:

I respond to your December 31 letter and the concern which you have expressed on a number of occasions about the integrity of the record at the contempt hearing in the referenced case. I have not been presented with any legitimate reason to question the integrity of the transcript and, in fact, from what I know, I have every reason to believe that the transcript is accurate.

In your December 31 letter to me, you state: "I maintain that the transcript as typed does not accurately represent the proceedings. The transcript does accurately match the contents of the audiotape in the possession of the court stenographer." Thus, your allegation is that the tape has been altered. In fact, you state that in your December 31 letter as well.

The tape has always been in the possession of Ms. Susan Sherry, the court monitor. In addition, the content of the tape matches her running written record of what transpired during the hearing. She has also assured me that the tape has been in her possession except for a period of time that it was in the possession of my law clerk, Attorney Licia Ano. The content of the tape matches the recollection of Ms. Sherry.

I do not see how anyone would have the opportunity or even the inclination to be altering the tape. I therefore cannot justify spending further time or effort by anyone on this issue. With all due respect to you, I believe that your concerns are misplaced.

January 21, 1998

By the way, if you listen to the tape beyond the conclusion of our hearing, there is a further brief exchange between you and me. It was on that occasion that I invited you to return for the afternoon contempt proceedings (I remember seeing you at the afternoon proceedings). Is that the exchange that you believe was missing from the tape? Be that as it may, you will receive no relief at this level because it is not warranted.

Cordially yours,



William E. Ford

WEF:dhn

CC: Attorney Susan Maurer