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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, 18th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2012-001083-CFA

STATE OF FLORIDA, Petitioner,

VS.

GEORGE ZIMMERMAN, Defendant.



STATE'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER/MOTION FOR INQUIRY

The State of Florida, by and through the undersigned Assistant State Attorney, hereby moves this Honorable Court for an Order governing proceedings in the instant case. In support of the instant Motion, the State submits the following:

- (1) Witness Rachel Jeantel testified as a witness in the instant case, having been previously subjected to deposition (approximately seven (7) hours) and was crossexamined at trial for nearly eight (8) hours by co-counsel for Defendant. She remains subject to potential recall as well.
- (2) Following her trial testimony, which concluded on June 27, 2013, co-counsel apparently celebrated his performance. Co-counsel's daughter, who was present (and has often been present) in court (in the front row), was also present at the celebration, and posted a photograph of that celebration on her Instagram internet account,

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containing a caption which included references to the "stupidity" of the witness and, in this murder trial, "dad killed it."

- (3) The Court has taken extraordinary steps to minimize the inflammatory nature of such social media commentary and the risks it poses to the sanctity of the jury deliberations and the safety and dignity of witnesses, and to control and correct breaches of the decorum of court proceedings (some of which likewise involve cell phones).
- (4) Defense counsel's spokespersons have admitted that the posting was certainly "insensitive" (presumably meaning both racially and from an intellectual standpoint) and Co-counsel further admitted that he was "not... proud" about the posting of the photograph and caption, but that he intended simply to "move on."

WHEREFORE the undersigned respectfully requests that the Court conduct such inquiry as the Court deems appropriate, including of the parties to this incident, to ensure that witnesses and court proceedings are treated with respect and not as occasions for inappropriate jokes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do certify that a copy hereof has been furnished to Attorney for Defendant, by HAND this day of July 2013.

Richard W. Mantei Assistant State Attorney

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Twitter





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