

THE SO-CALLED "LOVE JUDGE" TAKES THE HOT SEAT
CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY RONALD KUBY TO QUESTION JUSTICE JAIME A. RIOS

WHEN: Tuesday, August 22, 10:00 a.m.¹
Wednesday, August 23, 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Queens County Criminal Courthouse, Courtroom 190
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York

Justice Jaime A. Rios, dubbed the "Love Judge," has been subpoenaed to testify and answer allegations that he secretly coached prosecutors on how to obtain a conviction of defendant **Tyrone Johnson** in a murder trial Rios was presiding over.

Judith Memblatt, the former law clerk for Justice Jaime A. Rios, has alleged that Justice Rios had a long-term and improper sexual relationship with a former Assistant District Attorney. In the course of that relationship, Memblatt alleges that Justice Rios abused his office in order to assist the prosecution in certain cases, including Mr. Johnson's.

Tyrone Johnson was convicted of second-degree murder on July 27, 2003, in connection with the shooting death of LeRoy Vann that took place on February 5, 2000.

Memblatt alleges that prior to trial, Justice Rios met with the prosecutor assigned to Tyrone Johnson's case and instructed him as to the best way to ensure the conviction of Mr. Johnson. Following the jury's verdict of guilty, Justice Rios again met with the prosecutor and informed him that his closing argument was so improper that an appeals court would probably reverse the conviction, but Justice Rios failed to act on this prosecutorial misconduct. Neither the defendant, nor his counsel, were present for these meetings or had notice of them.

Civil rights attorney **Ronald L. Kuby** called Rios' conduct "a shocking example of judicial misconduct." "While Justice Rios continues to sit on the bench, Tyrone Johnson sits in Sing Sing waiting for a fair trial. A judge is required to be a neutral arbiter, not a secret, second prosecutor," Kuby said.

Ironically, Johnson's first conviction was overturned for prosecutorial misconduct, when it was revealed that the first prosecutor lied to the court about the whereabouts of a witness. That prosecutor later resigned from the Queen's County DA's office and was recently suspended from the practice of law. "You'd think they'd try to get it right the second time," Kuby mused.

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¹ Justice Rios is expected to take the stand at approximately 2:00 p.m. However, he may be called earlier.