

**The Florida Bar
Inquiry/Complaint Form**

PART ONE (See Page 1, PART ONE – Complainant Information.):

Your Name: Lynn-Marie Carty

Organization: Reunite People

Address: 6822 22nd Ave North# 186

City, State, Zip Code: St. Petersburg, Florida 33710

Telephone: 727.201.4222

E-mail: lynnmarie1957@tampabay.rr.com

ACAP Reference No.: _____

Have you ever filed a complaint against a member of The Florida Bar: Yes No

If yes, how many complaints have you filed? _____

Does this complaint pertain to a matter currently in litigation? Yes No

PART TWO (See Page 1, PART TWO – Attorney Information.):

Attorney's Name: Jeffrey Ashton

Address: State Attorney's Office 415 North Orange Avenue

City, State, Zip Code: Orlando, Florida 32801

Telephone: 407.836.2400

PART THREE (See Page 1, PART THREE – Facts/Allegations.): The specific thing or things I am complaining about are: (attach additional sheets as necessary)

In 1976 William Thomas Zeigler was convicted and sentenced to death for the Christmas Eve 1975 murders of four people in his Winter Garden furniture store. The trial was years before DNA science was used in criminal cases. One of the state's theories of guilt at trial was that Zeigler held his father-in-law, Perry Edwards, Sr. in a head lock and smashed his head in with a crank handle. The prosecutor demonstrated this to the jury. He argued that is why Edwards's blood type was on Zeigler's shirt. In 2002 limited DNA testing did not reveal Edward's blood on Zeigler's shirt. Based on the DNA blood evidence Zeigler was granted a hearing on a motion for a retrial. At the December of 2004 hearing, assistant state attorney Jeff Ashton argued that the new blood analysis didn't change a thing because Zeigler was convicted, inter alias, because Zeigler's fingerprint was found inside a torn off glove tip found at the scene of the crime. This fingerprint evidence was false, without any basis. No such evidence ever existed nor was any reference to a fingerprint in a glove tip ever presented to the jury. Judge Whitehead denied the request for a new trial. Ashton's obviously prejudicial false statement was never reviewed by a court. It has been hiding in the hearing transcript page 242 among thousands of records of the case. Eleven years have lapsed since Ashton's false statement to the judge occurred. The fingerprint statement has only recently become general knowledge. The harm from the false fingerprint statement continues to unfairly prejudice Zeigler as he is still on death row. Such an egregious violation should not lapse just as capital crimes have no statute of limitations. Such conduct by an attorney, an officer of the court must be a serious violation of the code of ethics.