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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
47th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LETCHER CIRCUIT COURT
INDICTMENT NO. 24-CR-00204

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

PLAINTIFF

VS.

SHAWN STINES

DEFENDANT

AFFIDAVIT OF SHAWN MICKEY STINES SEEKING DESIGNATION
OF SPECIAL JUDGE PURSUANT TO KRS 26A.020

Comes now Shawn Mickey Stines, being first duly sworn, under oath, and states as follows:

1. My name is Shawn Mickey Stines, and I am the Defendant in Letcher Circuit Court Indictment No. 24-CR-00204. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and competent to testify to the matters stated herein.
2. I make this affidavit pursuant to KRS 26A.020 in support of the removal of the Honorable Christopher Cohron from presiding over the above-styled matter.
3. It is my belief that I will not be afforded a fair and impartial trial or pretrial proceedings by Judge Cohron and seek the designation of a special judge pursuant to KRS 26A.020.
4. On March 6, 2026, the trial Court issued an Order denying the Verified Motion to Recuse/Disqualify filed by my counsel on December 29, 2025.

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5. In December 2025, I became aware of a video from the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health meeting from September 12, 2024, a mere seven (7) days prior to the shooting at issue in this matter. In the video, the presiding Judge and Kevin Mullins, the alleged victim in this case, are pictured sitting inches apart for the duration of the meeting.
6. The video at issue also shows Mullins' widow in attendance at the meeting.
7. It is my belief that in addition to the meeting shown in the video, there was a companion social or dinner event connected to the meeting.
8. In the video, Mullins is shown reporting on his involvement with legislative efforts as well as the "Womens[sic] with Dignity" bill. Mullins also highlights his recent recovery events and expungement efforts in Letcher County. Mullins then discusses his professional plans for the following week at the District Judge's College. When Mullins discusses the upcoming events, Judge Cohron appears to nod in approval.
9. Judge Cohron did not disclose this fact to the parties, despite the close connection in time to the events at issue, leading to an appearance of impropriety.
10. It is my belief that the trial of this matter will necessarily include evidence regarding the week's events Mullins discussed in the video. As such, it is difficult to believe that Judge Cohron's proximity with Mullins such a short time before the events at issue will not affect his judgment in my case.

- 11. It is also my belief that evidence presented at trial regarding Mullins will conflict with the Judge's professional knowledge of Mullins and that the presiding judge will not be impartial as a result.
- 12. The relationship between the presiding judge and the alleged victim, including their service together on the same committee and the proximity to the events at issue in this case, creates circumstances under which a reasonable person could question the presiding judge's impartiality.
- 13. Based upon the foregoing facts, I believe that I cannot receive a fair and impartial trial before the Honorable Christopher Cohron.
- 14. This affidavit is made in good faith and for the purpose of ensuring a fair and impartial trial.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



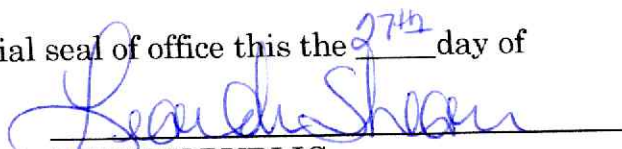
 Shawn Mickey Stines

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF LETCHER**

Personally appeared before me the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, duly commissioned and qualified, Shawn Mickey Stines, with whom I am personally acquainted and who, upon oath, acknowledged that the executed this instrument as such with full authority to do so, for the purpose therein contained and did further state that all matters set forth therein are true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of office this the 27th day of March, 2026.





 NOTARY PUBLIC
 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 12/9/2029