



Everything New Orleans

# The Times-Picayune

## **Judge throws out lawsuit against TP**

*Attorney had claimed stories humiliated him*

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From Staff Reports

A state judge has thrown out a lawsuit against The Times-Picayune by a former attorney who claimed he was humiliated and embarrassed by the coverage of a criminal case against him.

Civil District Judge Robin Giarrusso also ordered the plaintiff, Nicholas Estiverne, to pay the newspaper \$4,000 in legal fees for filing a meritless lawsuit.

Estiverne faced a felony charge of exploiting the infirm by draining an elderly nursing home patient's \$122,000 in life savings; he pleaded guilty in July to misdemeanor theft, according to his attorney. He received a suspended six-month sentence and two years of probation.

His suit against the newspaper centered on the coverage of the charges against him and was filed before he pleaded.

A native of Haiti who twice ran for that country's presidency, Estiverne had practiced law for 20 years when he gave up his law license in 2000 after several run-ins with the Louisiana board that investigates attorney misconduct.

In his suit, which also targeted Times-Picayune reporters Keith O'Brien and Susan Finch, Estiverne claimed violation of privacy, infliction of mental distress, defamation, malicious publication, and public humiliation and embarrassment. He sought damages of \$10 million.

In addition to the state suit, Estiverne filed suit against the newspaper in federal court. That suit was dismissed in August by U.S. District Judge Jay Zainey, but Estiverne is appealing.