

COMMUNITY

Goldy appealed denied

By Cecil Lawson
KyNewsGroup
cecil@kynewsgroup.com

The US Court of Appeals recently upheld the conviction of a former 21st Circuit Commonwealth's Attorney who was found guilty in 2024 of exchanging judicial favors for nude photos from a criminal defendant.

The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals issued an 18-page opinion on January 8 denying an appeal by Ronnie Goldy, Jr. The hearing before the Court of Appeals took place in October 2025.

Goldy was represented in court by attorneys Kaycee Berente and Kevin Schad from the Office of Federal Public De-

fender, Columbus, Ohio. Andrew Boone from Lexington, Kentucky, represented the US Attorney's Office. The Court's opinion was written by Chief Judge Hon. Alice M. Batchelder.

Goldy served as 21st Circuit Commonwealth's Attorney from 2013 to 2023. The 21st Circuit includes Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, and Rowan Counties.

Goldy argued in the appeal that his testimony had been excluded at trial by not being allowed to testify about state law and that nothing he did for the defendant, Misty Helton, constituted an "official act." He also claimed that the prosecution did not provide sufficient

evidence regarding the interstate, federal, and bribery aspects of the charges against him. He also questioned the "excessive use of alcohol" aspect of his sentencing during his supervised release at the end of his sentence as well as a lack of consideration of his disbarment in his sentencing order.

The Court's opinion took issue with each of these arguments and in the end affirmed the ruling of the US District Court's conviction and sentencing.

Goldy's long saga began when the Louisville Courier-Journal published a story in July 2022 detailing a series of Facebook messages between Goldy and Helton

from 2018 through 2020. In the messages, Goldy appeared to be willing to do favors in court for Helton and asked her for nude photos and videos in return.

The reporter, Andrew Wolfson, obtained the messages from attorney Thomas Clay, who represented former 21st Circuit Judge Beth Maze in a criminal case in Bath County. Goldy was slated to be a witness in her trial, and Clay questioned Goldy's character in the case because of the messages. Maze's criminal case was dismissed later in 2022.

During an evidentiary hearing in September 2022 before Special Commissioner Hon. Jean Chenault Logue in

Winchester, two of the later federal trial witnesses, including 21st Circuit Judge Barber and Misty Helton, provided testimony.

The Kentucky Supreme Court suspended Goldy from the practice of law following the evidentiary hearing.

Goldy resigned from the 21st Circuit Commonwealth Attorney's Office in February 2023 but the Kentucky General Assembly voted to impeach and convict Goldy. He was barred from ever holding office in the state.

He was the first public official in 135 years to be impeached and convicted by the Kentucky General Assembly.

A federal grand jury

handed down the fourteen-count indictment against Goldy in August 2023, following an FBI investigation. In February 2024 a U.S. District Court jury found Goldy guilty on six counts of honest services wire fraud, six counts of using interstate communication to commit bribery, and two counts of federal program bribery.

The jury sentenced Goldy in May 2024 to the maximum recommended sentence of 41 months in federal prison.

Goldy continues to serve his sentence at Ashland Federal Correctional Institute. His release is scheduled for September 21, 2026.

Volunteers needed for Shop & Share

DOVES of Gateway, an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence serving Bath, Menifee, Morgan, Montgomery, and Rowan Counties, is taking part in the Kentucky's Annual Shop & Share on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local grocery stores across the Commonwealth are joining in to collect donated goods for our domestic violence shelters. Participating local stores include Save-A-Lot in Bath County, IGA/The Market in Menifee County, IGA in Morgan County, and Kroger in Montgomery and Rowan Counties.

DOVES needs volunteers to help pass out shopping lists, receive donated items at collection tables in the stores, and transport items from the store to the DOVES shelter.

Learn more and register to volunteer at DOVESofGateway.org/shop-and-share or call 606-784-6880.

Rowan County Retired Teachers Association to meet Feb. 5

Rowan County Retired Teachers Association will hold their next meeting on Thursday, February 5, at 11 a.m. at the Rowan County Public Library,

Room A. Breakfast breads, coffee, juice, and bottled water will be served. We will have a short service to remember retired teachers who passed away in

2025. The President of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association will be present to discuss insurance and leg-

islative priorities. Local dues of \$10 can be paid at the meeting.

Legal Notice

Waltz Towing located at 6765 Cranston Rd, Morehead, KY 40351, will be auctioning off the following vehicles listed below.

James Zachary Raifsnider & Eagle Financial Services
2004 Infiniti I35
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Todd Rinehart & Community Trust Bank Inc.
2013 Chevy Cruz
Vin #1G1PC5SB7D7216242

Rose Marie Bates & Eagle Financial Services
2005 Ford Freestar
Vin #2FMZA57665BA62256

The auction will be held on January 28, 2026 at 10:00 am.

If you have any questions you can call 606-776-4829.

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