

# Auditor Shad White says a professor broke state law; the professor is now suing White for defamation

## Mississippi Today

After state auditor Shad White publicly said University of Mississippi professor James Thomas violated the state's no-strike law, a group representing Thomas is suing White for defamation.

An organization representing Thomas, an outspoken sociology professor who has regularly drawn the public scorn of top state-wide Republican elected officials, filed a defamation suit on Wednesday related to White's "repeated contention" that Thomas violated Mississippi's no-strike law.

Thomas participated in a national walkout on Sept. 8-9 called the "Scholar Strike," in which hundreds of faculty at universities across the nation protested police brutality and other racial inequities. Thomas called it a "work stoppage" on Twitter.

After state investigators subpoenaed Thomas' emails and classroom materials, White, in an early December letter, demanded that Thomas repay more than \$2,000 in taxpayers dollars for the two days he didn't work and wrote that "concerted work stoppages" and strikes are illegal under Mississippi law.



State Auditor Shad White attends a rally at the Bancorp-South Arena in Tupelo on Nov. 1, 2019.

(Eric J. Shelton/Mississippi Today, Report For America)

The Mississippi Center for Justice, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of Thomas on Wednesday, is also seeking a declaratory judgment from the court that Thomas did not violate the law.

"White falsely accused Dr. Thomas of violating Mississippi's law prohibiting certain public employee strikes and called on the University to terminate his employment as a result," reads the lawsuit, which was filed in Hinds County Circuit Court. "The false statement was made by Mr. White in a letter to the Chancellor of the University, in a subsequent letter to Dr. Thomas himself, in at

least one press release, and in a number of interviews and other public statements."

The lawsuit continues: "This lawsuit is brought on behalf of Thomas. It seeks to hold Mr. White accountable under the law of defamation for this false statement. However, Dr. Thomas does not seek the payment of any taxpayer money. This defamation suit is brought against Mr. White in his individual capacity. If Mr. White is found to be liable for this false statement, the jury can decide whether he personally should pay any money. If the jury says he should pay one dollar, that is fine. If the



Only you can make it happen

Dear Dave,

I've got so many things I want to address and change about my life, both personally and professionally, in the coming year. Do you have any advice or practices for helping people be successful and achieve their goals?

Tim

Dear Tim,

Goals are dreams, but you can't stop with just dreaming. Examining your goals inside and out, and by thoughtfully constructing small, achievable steps toward them is the key to creating change in your life. Remember, too, that it's your responsibility—not someone else's—to fix things in your life. If you're waiting for someone or something else to make things better, you're going to be disappointed.

When it comes to setting and achieving goals, be specific about what you want to achieve. Vague, unspecified ideas will only cause you to feel overwhelmed, and this will likely lead to you giving up. Also, make your goals measurable. If you want to lose weight, don't simply write down "lose weight" as a goal. How much weight do you want to lose? How many pounds would you have to lose per week in order to see the desired result in a specified amount of time?

Tim

White, in a statement, said on Wednesday: "The lawsuit is not worth the paper it's written on."

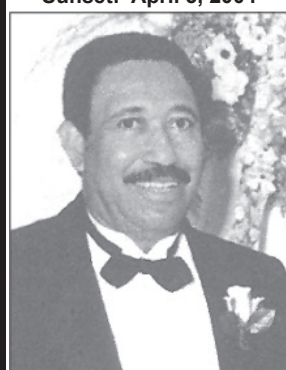
This one may sound silly, but are the goals you have in mind your goals? If a spouse or friend sets goals for you, you're probably not going to succeed. Creating a goal, and taking ownership of it, will give you more incentive to meet your goal. Setting a time frame will help you develop more realistic goals, too.

And last, always put your goals in writing. Write them down, and review them often. This will provide you with added motivation to make your goals a reality. Successful people examine and reassess their lives on a regular basis. When they realize changes need to be made, they start living intentionally, in writing, on paper, and on purpose!

—Dave Ramsey  
\*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including *The Total Money Makeover*. The *Dave Ramsey Show* is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at [@DaveRamsey](https://twitter.com/DaveRamsey).

## Remembering and Honoring Odell Hampton, Jr.

Holmes County Supervisor - District 5  
Sunrise: January 10, 1940  
Sunset: April 5, 2004



Gone so Soon but Never Forgotten, Your Work Speaks For You. We Love You and Miss You So Much. Many Thanks To You. Your Wife, 2 - Daughters, 2 - Sons-in-law & 2 - Granddaughters  
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

# Thank You from the Holmes County Herald

The staff and owners of the Holmes County Herald wish our readers, patrons, supporters and advertisers, a Happy New Year full of peace, love, prosperity, joy and health. We offer our heartfelt appreciation for helping make the Herald a vibrant and vital part of the community. We look forward to serving you in the new year.