

CR20250148

Sabrina Vining
Victim Representative of Paul Clifford
Pima County, Arizona

To: The Honorable Laura Conover

07 Aug 2025

Pima County Attorney
Pima County Attorney's Office
Tucson, Arizona

Dear County Attorney Conover,

As a lawful victim representative of Paul Clifford, who was murdered on December 24, 2024, I am formally requesting that you recuse yourself and your office from the ongoing prosecution of State v. Jack Upchurch (CR20250148), and refer the case to the Arizona Attorney General's Office for reassignment.

My mother and I have met with you on more than one occasion. While you have heard us, you have not listened. You have stated that your office will not pursue the death penalty or apply felony murder law due to your personal beliefs and campaign platform. But your duty is not to your personal beliefs—it is to the law and to the people of Arizona, including victims. Your refusal to enforce Arizona's felony murder statutes is placing this entire case at risk.

The only path you've left open is to try to prove premeditated first-degree murder beyond a reasonable doubt—despite the fact that there are real, valid reasons to suspect that either Wendy Scott or Elmer Smith could have pulled the trigger. There is no video, no clear physical evidence, and their statements are filled with inconsistencies and lies. The original version of events—that none of them were ever near our home—was proven false only after evidence forced them to admit the truth. And even then, that admission came in carefully limited terms. It is likely they planned for what they would say if caught. Their versions changed only when absolutely necessary.

Your insistence on taking this case personally has resulted in plea deals that diminish the truth and insult our family's right to justice. Two of the three individuals responsible for my father's murder have already received reduced charges through plea deals. This is not accountability—it is avoidance. If you cannot put your personal ideology aside to fully prosecute this case, then you should step aside.

This case deserves a prosecutor who is willing to pursue justice, not someone who is afraid to use the tools provided by law. I am asking you, formally and publicly, to recuse your office and allow the Arizona Attorney General's Office or another neutral party to take over. We need a prosecutor who will act without bias, personal agenda, or political platform.

Sincerely,



Sabrina Vining & Family
Victim Representatives of Paul Clifford