

# Brawley lawsuit is underway

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peace," and carrying placards such as "Tawana told the truth" and "Pagones is a rapist."

"Every African American within an airplane ride should be here," said Don Hill, of Paterson, N.J.

Once inside, one of Maddox's first actions was to ask state Supreme Court Justice S. Barrett Hickman to allow more evidence, a motion Hickman quickly cut short.

Last month, Hickman turned down a similar request, barring the former Brawley advisers from calling witnesses they claimed could prove allegations against Pagones. Hickman ruled the three lost the right to question grand jury findings after refusing

to cooperate in the investigation.

Maddox said Hickman's rulings amounted to a gag order.

"I think (Maddox) is desperate," Pagones said.

Pagones found himself at the center of the Brawley case soon after the 15-year-old girl was found near her Dutchess County home on Nov. 28, 1987, following a four-day disappearance. The girl's body was smeared with feces, and racial epithets were written on her torso with charcoal. She said she was abducted and raped.

Brawley's advisers accused Pagones, then an assistant district attorney, of being one of the girl's white attackers. The charge came as the alleged abduction grabbed national headlines after

protests claiming racial injustice and the involvement of celebrities like Bill Cosby and Mike Tyson.

Pagones was exonerated in 1988 by the same grand jury that concluded the Brawley case was a hoax.

He sued Brawley and her advisers later that same year, claiming the unproven allegations gave him insomnia, stomach ailments and anxiety attacks. Now 36 and an assistant state attorney general, Pagones has said he wants to clear his name, said his attorney William Stanton.

Brawley lost her case in 1991. Her refusal to answer repeated subpoenas led to a default judgment for Pagones.

For Sharpton, the case highlights his public transformation

from the flamboyant minister who compared New York's attorney general to Adolf Hitler to today's more mainstream Democratic politician.

Time has been less kind to Mason, who was disbarred in 1995 for price gouging, theft and abandoning clients. Maddox was suspended from practicing law after refusing to cooperate with an ethics panel probing his conduct in the Brawley case.

Brawley, who is now 25 and has been silent about the incident for a decade, is not expected to testify during the trial. She reportedly lives in Washington, D.C., attended Howard University and is now known by the Muslim name Maryam Muhammad.



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# Four resignations sought by NAACP

Continued from page 2A

The committee met Friday to review a report from the NAACP's general counsel on personal and legal conflicts involving the four board members, the group said.

In 1995, Evers-Williams won a hotly contested election for the chairmanship of the organization's 64-member board after then-Chairman William Gibson was accused of squandering NAACP funds.

A subsequent audit by the accounting firm of Coopers &

• Baptists say the National Baptist Convention should also demand President Henry Lyons' resignation. Details in Religion, page 10A.

Lybrand found "certain excessive and unreasonable expenditures" by top officials including \$112,000 in questionable spending by Gibson.

Problems surfaced again recently when Dukes, a national board member from New York and close aide to Evers-Williams, pleaded guilty to attempted grand larceny last month.

Dukes, 65, former president of New York City's Off-Track Betting Corp., admitted in court that she took more than \$13,000 from a leukemia-stricken OTB employee who had trusted her to cash her paychecks and help pay her bills.

Last year, Ghee of Virginia, another Evers-Williams supporter on the board, was sen-

tenced to six months in jail after pleading guilty to 11 misdemeanor counts of embezzlement.

Bivens, a California board member, is also under investigation for alleged financial improprieties. Bivens was arrested in early October and accused of owing \$20,000 in child support.

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# Europe focus of Gabon summit

By Paul Ejime  
PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY

LIBREVILLE, Gabon — Leaders of 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific nations began a crucial summit earlier this month in the Gabonese capital, Libreville, to revamp the group's traditional trade and aid dominated relationship with the 15-nation European Union.

An umbrella agreement known as the Lome Convention has bound together these two groups of developing and industrialised nations.

However the treaty, which went into effect in 1975, has come under intense pressure for a radical overhaul in view of

intervening global economic forces. It is due to terminate in the year 2000.

"The question is no longer whether there will be a new ACP-EU agreement but what shape or form this will take," a delegate said.

The leaders are to consider policy documents to this effect prepared by the group's 66th session of the Council of Ministers, which met in the Gabonese capital ahead of the two-day summit.

Poor ACP countries, which produce mainly primary products, are worried that the fourth Lome convention, known as Lome IV, cannot meet their expectations.

On the other hand, with the end of the cold war, the industrialised North is de-emphasising aid and focusing more on how to help their poor former communist states, thereby leaving the poor South in the lurch.

Another bane of the ACP-EU relationship has been the lack of unity among developing countries in their negotiations with the north, which often puts them at a disadvantage.

The ACP president and Zimbabwe's industry and commerce minister, Nathan Shamuyarira, touched on this sore point when he opened the ministerial council in Libreville.

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