

10/6/2K

On Monday, October 2, 2000, I received a voice message from Nancy Rue, an attorney with the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of DOJ in Washington. Her number is 202-353-0419.

Ms. Rue was calling about restoration of voting rights for convicted felons. She wanted to know the Governor's process for restoring voting rights by pardon or executive order, per Miss. Code Ann. Section 47-7-41, and the legislature's 2/3 process of restoring voting rights, per Constitutional Section 253. She also wanted any numbers we might have for restorations done through either process over the past years.

I tried three times to reach Ms. Rue. The first time I left her a message on Tuesday telling her I would try to call her back or wait for her call but that, in the meantime, she might want to know that this governor has restored no voting rights at all and that we haven't developed a process as yet because we were left with no guidance from prior administrations. I told her that the legislature is the only way I am familiar with restorations and that my experience had been, unscientifically, that anyone who had a bill introduced for restoration of rights had them restored. I also told her that I knew of no numbers on the number of people who had benefitted from either process. I invited her to call me back if she needed more information.

I called her two more times, leaving one message. I have not heard from her since her first message.