

Moore hires new defense team in Sherman murder case; former attorney speaks exclusively with CJN

SARA SHOOKMAN

Former attorney Gregory Moore recently retained Joseph and Megan Patituce as his new defense team after his lead attorney's withdrawal postponed his trial earlier this month in the 2013 murder of Aliza Sherman.

The Patituces filed a notice of appearance in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court on Sept. 28. They already represent Moore in his pending appeal concerning a double-jeopardy motion filed shortly before the trial was scheduled to begin Sept. 14.

The two attorneys are both former Cuyahoga County prosecutors who have experience in high-profile homicide litigation and complex appellate matters. They were part of the defense team for Tevin Biles-Thomas, the brother of Olympic gymnast Simone Biles, who was acquitted of murder and other charges in connection with a shooting that killed three people during a 2018 New Year's Eve party in Cleveland.

Joe and Megan Patituce of Patituce Law in Cleveland also represented Mitchell Hartman in a 2020 case in which the Ohio Supreme Court affirmed the reversal of his rape

conviction and issued a significant ruling limiting the use of evidence concerning a defendant's alleged prior acts.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Kira Krivosh gave Moore until Oct. 7 to make a decision about his representation following the withdrawal of his former lead attorney, Jon Paul Rion of Rion, Rion & Rion L.P.A., Inc. in Dayton. Rion's withdrawal, based on reasons filed under seal, led to the indefinite postponement of Moore's trial Sept. 17.

In a Sept. 29 motion, the Patituces said they had been retained to replace Rion, who withdrew, and Chris Bucio of The Bucio firm in Dayton, who they said was discharged at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 25. Bucio confirmed to the Cleveland Jewish News on Sept. 30 he is no longer on Moore's defense team and that it was Moore's decision.

Sherman, a 53-year-old in-vitro fertilization nurse and mother of four from Beachwood, was stabbed 11 times outside Stafford Law Company. She was a client of Moore's at the law office, whom she hired to represent her in a divorce from Sanford Sherman, who died in July 2024.



▲ The CJN's Sara Shookman interviews Chris Bucio, former defense attorney for Gregory Moore, on Sept. 23 for an exclusive episode of the podcast, "Aliza: Her Story." On Sept. 30 Bucio told the CJN that he was no longer representing Moore, who is accused of murdering Aliza Sherman.

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MOORE | CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



BOB JACOB

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My half-century journey in journalism coming to a close

I started my full-time career in 1978 covering Little League baseball banquets and high school sports events. Those stories were big news in every community that our newspaper touched. Readers could not wait to see the names of their children, grandchildren, friends and others in black and white delivered to their doorstep every day.

Names are news and that is a lesson I have never forgotten. While the newspapers I have worked for have covered everything in the world, local news has been where it's at for me. That is more important today as there are so many ways people can get their national and world news.

I recently celebrated my milestone 70th birthday and decided it's time for the next chapter to be written. Today, I am

announcing my retirement, which will take place within the next few months.

For 50 years, I have covered the local sports and news scene, first as a freelancer while in college, and then for two daily newspapers, Painesville Telegraph and Elyria Chronicle-Telegram, and then the weekly chain that included the Chagrin

JACOB | CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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