

WILKES WILL GET AN ENEMY COMBATANT LAWYER FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION-RELATED TRIAL

At least that's what I infer from the comments of the lawyer from the public defender's nonprofit that will now take on Wilkes' defense in one of two cases (thanks to chrisc for sending this on) he has been charged on.

A lawyer from Federal Defenders of San Diego Inc., a nonprofit that represents indigent people accused of federal crimes, will represent Wilkes in the criminal case with co-defendant Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, the former third-highest-ranking official at the CIA.

[snip]

Federal Defenders of San Diego has several experienced lawyers who have cleared stringent background checks, Frank Mangan, the nonprofit's senior litigator said in an interview. The attorneys have worked on cases of enemy combatants accused of terrorism and who are being held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Mangan said.

One of the office's 40 lawyers will appear with Wilkes at a hearing scheduled for next month. At that point, Burns is expected to set a new trial date in 2008.

At issue is that Wilkes' selected lawyer, Mark Geragos, refused to get a security clearance in a case in which one of the charged crimes has to do with Wilkes and Foggo setting up an air service of the type the CIA uses to conduct its

extraordinary renditions. The judge in the case, Larry Burns, threw Geragos off the case and, after reviewing Wilkes' financial declaration, decided that Wilkes is now indigent and will have a government-paid lawyer. I kind of like the karma that Wilkes will likely be defended by a guy that has also defended the kinds of people Wilkes aspired to deliver unto torture.