

# SC-11 Activist To Dump Lawyer Wednesday \$11 for SC-11 at May 11<sup>th</sup> Benefit at *India Joze*

Santa Cruz Eleven [SC-11] defendant and community activist Brent Adams goes to court Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM in Dept. 6 to file a Marsden motion to remove & replace Ryan Murphy the Public Defender [PD] which Judge Ariadne Symons insisted represent him in February. At that time, Symons—since removed by peremptory challenge --denied several of the Santa Cruz Eleven the Public Defenders who had asked to help and were sympathetic, interested, and knowledgeable in the case.

On April 25<sup>th</sup> Judge Paul Burdick dismissed all charges against four of the Eleven though D.A. Rebekah Young doggedly declared she'd refile against two. The defendants are whistleblowers, reporters, activists, and observers on trial for being peacefully present at the occupation of a long-vacant Wells Fargo Bank building (now surrounded by a barbed wire fence) at 75 River St. Under Young's peculiar conspiracy theory, the nine face two felonies and two misdemeanors each for "aiding and abetting" a "conspiracy" to "trespass and vandalize" with no evidence that any of those charged individually met the necessary elements of those crimes. Many activists in the community believe this prosecution is part of a national effort to crush the Occupy movement.

Adams says Murphy has been dismissive if not hostile in his case, & declined to fully discuss his case or share evidence with him as requested, pressing him to plead guilty short of trial. Most recently, Adams reports, Murphy stood him up for a Friday court appearance that he promised to schedule so that Adams could get a new attorney. In spite of a prior agreement, says Adams, Murphy casually and high-handedly broke his word without apology and darkly warned if Adams moved to replace him, he would have to represent himself and have trouble finding another attorney.

I've often seen this ailment among Public Defenders--pressuring plea bargain's, unwilling to more carefully investigate and/or present witnesses, and summarily cutting short all discussion of a case. The "Five Minutes in the Hallway before Trial" Syndrome is a severe one, partially the fault of Public Defenders being overburdened by the system, partially professional arrogance.

In my view, some of the SC-11 court appointed Public Defenders (or "Public Pretenders" as some indigent clients call them) failed to file pre-trial motions challenging the rushed prosecution & the prosecution's failure to provide full video and written evidence. Most attorneys for the SC-11, I believe, have been slow to work out a common strategy and discouraged solidarity, pressing rigidly for a "go it alone" approach. This, however, is my personal view, and not the official opinion of the SC-11 or their supporters generally.

It is my conclusion that were the SC11 to have followed their attorney's advice strictly, none of them would ever have met and talked together as some have done to plan solidarity benefits and actions. Nor would they have conferred with supporters.

Adams welcomes supporters at his Marsden hearing, but encourages folks not to burn themselves out, given the number of recent and upcoming events involving members of the SC11.

**On Friday May 11<sup>th</sup> , 3-6 PM internationally famous chef Joseph Schultz will again host a benefit for the SC-11 at 418 Front St.**

## **Drop the Charges: End the Witchhunt!**

*The opinions above are Robert Norse's; they don't necessarily represent the position of the Santa Cruz Eleven or the working group of Occupy Santa Cruz supporting them.*

**Go to [www.santacruzelenen.org](http://www.santacruzelenen.org) to support the Santa Cruz Eleven !**