

Attorney Asks Court to Dismiss Koulis Case

Mar 29, 2010 By Mark Bellinger



Lisa Buchanan

FRANKLIN, Tenn. - The attorney for convicted killer Christ Koulis has filed a controversial appeal following the former Nashville plastic surgeon's death.

Koulis' family said the 42 year old died Friday in a Chicago hospital after an apparent heart attack.

On September 28, 2007 a Williamson County jury convicted Koulis of criminally negligent homicide in the death of Lisa Buchanan. Buchanan died of a drug overdose during what prosecutors called a marathon of sex and drugs over July 4th weekend of 2005.

Investigators said Koulis provided the drugs to Buchanan. Koulis received a two year sentence, but he was released on an appeal bond shortly after his conviction.

Koulis' attorney, David Raybin, has asked the Court of Criminal Appeals of Tennessee to dismiss the case and wipe away the murder conviction and two year sentence from Koulis' record. Raybin said he spoke to Koulis probably three days before his death. "Enough is enough. This case is over with. The conviction should be vacated and let Dr. Koulis rest in peace," said Raybin.

Buchanan's mother, Peggy Roberts, does not like what Raybin is doing. She testified during the trial. "It is unbelievable to me. I think he was convicted and I think rightfully so, and I think that conviction should stand," said Roberts. She said in some ways the death of Koulis has helped her family. "I'm kind of relieved that we do not have to go through this anymore. He's put this family through so much already," said Roberts.

Raybin said he understands Roberts' concerns, but he pointed out the Koulis family feels just as strongly about preserving their son's dignity. He said he has 100 years of precedence for abatement by death on his side. He said the law allows it in Tennessee and in the federal courts.



Christ Koulis



Raybin cited the case of Enron Executive Kenneth Lay. The former CEO was convicted of fraud, but Lay died before he was sentenced. A few months later a judge dismissed case.

The attorney said the appeals court in Tennessee is likely to do the same for Christ Koulis.

"They pursued him while he was alive, but they shouldn't pursue him to the grave," said Raybin.

Williamson County District Attorney Kim Helper prosecuted Koulis. She had no comment on Raybin's filing. Helper said the Tennessee Attorney General's office will handle the case.

Attorney General's Office spokeswoman Sharon Curtis-Flair said the office is reviewing the filings and then they will decide how to proceed.

Koulis' funeral is scheduled for Wednesday in Chicago.