

Ex-Lonoke chief sees conviction reversed

by The Associated Press | November 5, 2009 at 11:44 a.m. | Updated November 5, 2009 at 4:41 p.m.

0



Former City of Lonoke Police Chief Jay Campbell and his wife Kelly Campbell waiting for their trial to resume in this 2007 file photo. - Photo by Steve Keesee

The Arkansas Supreme Court overturned the corruption conviction of a former Lonoke police chief on Thursday, saying a prosecutor took a random set of allegations and wrongly concluded that Ronald Jay Campbell conducted a continuing criminal enterprise in the town. Prosecutors failed to present substantial evidence to support a conviction, justices said in a unanimous order sending the case back to Lonoke County. The court also said lurid trial testimony that Campbell's wife had sex with state prisoners at the local jail kept him from receiving a fair trial. Justices also said a search warrant used to obtain evidence was defective.