

# The Post-Standard

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Clinton Square, P.O. Box 4915 Syracuse, New York 13221-4915

Dec. 12, 2011

Hon. Andrew T. Baxter  
U.S. Magistrate  
James M. Hanley Federal Building  
100 S. Clinton St.  
Syracuse, NY 13261

Judge Baxter:

The Post-Standard joins other media in requesting the unsealing of three search warrant applications filed in case 11-mj-492, the federal investigation of former Syracuse University associate head basketball coach Bernie Fine.

With the returns on all three warrants already made public, unsealing the applications for searches at Fine's home, SU office, bank safe deposit boxes and SU locker would further inform the public in a case that has drawn national attention. Without these documents, the public is left to guess about what evidence federal authorities presented to the court to obtain the warrants. Revealing the contents of these three documents would serve the public interest by laying out what proof the Secret Service deemed sufficient probable cause to believe a federal crime had been committed.

In addition, unsealing the applications could refute or confirm the public statements of the Onondaga County district attorney, who at a new conference last week assessed the credibility of witnesses and weight of the evidence in this case. If the search warrant applications remain sealed, the public would be left with only the pronouncements of a prosecutor who's not involved in the investigation.

If you have any questions, please call me at 470-2187, or email me at [jobrien@syracuse.com](mailto:jobrien@syracuse.com).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John O'Brien  
Reporter  
Syracuse Post-Standard