

# Prosecutor ends in hung jury

eral court ordered it to shut down for copyright infringement in 2010.

Among the pornographic files were five images of children. The CDs also contained explicit images of Mahon and an ex-girlfriend. Mahon's defense argued that he downloaded the porn in bulk and inadvertently downloaded child pornography.

When he found the CDs in his garage nearly two decades later, Mahon said he "didn't know what they were," and he didn't have a CD drive at home to read the files. "That's why I brought them to the office," he said.

When he examined the CDs, he said he found the

images of himself and his ex, and said he decided to preserve those images by uploading them to a private folder on an online cloud storage service, Microsoft's OneDrive.

Microsoft has a system in place to alert the company if known child pornography is uploaded through their service, and it got hits on images from Mahon's CDs. The company froze Mahon's account and alerted the authorities.

Not long after, Mahon was arrested.

"I didn't even know what was on the CDs until I looked at them at the office," Mahon said. Authentication implored the

jury to convict him and argued he'd continued to collect disturbing sexual images.

"What turns on Trey Mahon? It's images of girls getting raped," Authentication told the jury. "He gets off on being a predator. That is what turns him on. Nonconsensual pornography, going back all the way to when he was 18 years old."

But Mahon's defense told the jury that the prosecution's case was weak.

"The reason they haven't proven this case is because he's not guilty," said Mahon's attorney, Cameron Mary. "They don't have the evidence to prove him guilty."

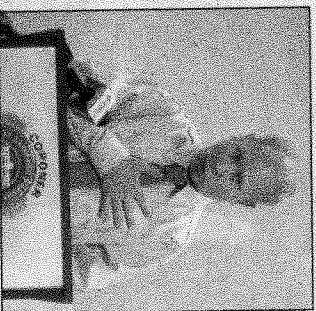
# St. Tammany Chamber says it too supports coroner recall

**BY BOB WARREN**  
Staff writer

The Chamber's board of directors has decided to endorse and support the recall of St. Tammany Parish Coroner Christopher Tape and encourage their members to support and sign the recall petition now circulating throughout the parish.

In an April 30 news release, the chamber said after careful consideration, its board of directors had voted to support the recall.

Tape, who won the office unopposed last October, came under fire from northshore elected officials after WWL, Louisiana reported that he had been indicted on counts of child sexual assault in New Mexico in 2002. The indictment was tossed when a New Mexico court ruled that the state took too long to bring formal charges against him. Tape has main-



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER  
St. Tammany Parish Coroner Christopher Tape

tained his innocence.

"It's disappointing they would take this step without speaking to Dr. Tape himself," coroner spokesperson James Hartman said of the chamber's announcement.

Organizers filed the recall papers on April 16, giving them 180 days to collect more than 35,000 valid signatures. Across metro New Orleans, recall efforts have

consistently fallen short in recent years, as organizers have found how difficult it can be to obtain thousands of valid signatures of registered voters.

The chamber, which says it represents more than 1,100 area businesses and their 37,000 employees, said its board gave the recall effort careful consideration before voting to endorse it.

The news release pointed to Tape's decision to discontinue the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program as one of the chamber's concerns.

Citing an effort to cut costs, Tape announced he would discontinue that program, which was run out of the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office and employed trained nurses to provide medical treatment and evidence collection to victims of sexual assault in a five-parish region.