

April 19, 2021

Jeff Landry, Attorney General  
Louisiana Department of Justice  
PO Box 94005  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. Landry,

I have been employed with this office for nearly fifteen (15) years. During my tenure in office, I performed to the best of my ability in the interests of the public who I represent. I love the work I faithfully performed and my present decision is one of the most difficult of my career.

In the fall, 2020, after several female employees approached me regarding the sexually harassing behavior and hostile work environment created by the actions of Pat Magee and the behavior I personally witnessed, I reported the sexual harassment to you through your designated agent Sandra Schober. My reports were in accordance with this office's policy and the law. Frankly, Mr. Magee's behavior was offensive, harmful to our female staff, and was open, obvious, and pervasive in the workplace. The fact that nothing was done previously is a product of Mr. Magee's continued threats to employees of his close relationship with you and the fear, particularly with Ms. Schober, of retaliation.

I also reported, opposed, and complained about several practices occurring in the workplace. These include issues with illegal spending of insurance fraud support unit statutorily dedicated funds and the preferential treatment afforded a politically connected individual facing twenty counts of child pornography charges involving juveniles under the age of thirteen years old.

I take my responsibilities very seriously and in that regard, made my report of unlawful conduct to my supervisor after discussing these issues with the head of that unit who indicated Melissa Gannuch, the LADOJ budget and policy planner, and other members of the administration with knowledge and control of how those monies are spent had been illegally manipulating this fund for years. My sincerest hope was that the sexual harassment and my other reports would be addressed fully, fairly, and without retaliation. Instead, this office has targeted me and those who had the courage to stand up.

In March, 2021, I was denied promotion because of my opposition to the sexual harassment, discrimination, and unlawful behavior in the workplace. After participating in the interview process for a replacement section chief after Marty White was made Criminal Division Director, I was informed by Mr. White that I will shortly be effectively demoted, my job responsibilities significantly diminished, and essentially removed from my job duties as a result of my protected activities. On April 7, 2021, Ms. Schober issued an alarming and retaliatory "memorandum" to the

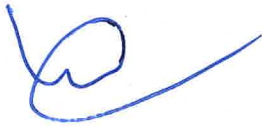
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media. The statements contained in that memorandum and the timing/manner of its release were clearly designed to cause me personal and professional harm. The memorandum directly threatens my continued employment with this office.

Rather than supporting employees who follow this office's policy and the law, it is readily apparent to me, this office is retaliating against me as a whistle-blower.

Hence, I have no other alternative but to resign my employment. My resignation is effective Monday, May 10, 2021. In the interim, and because of the retaliatory harassment, I will be taking sick leave. I understand my obligation to provide medical documentation which I will do shortly.

I truly loved my job and loved serving the people of Louisiana.



Matthew B. Derbes