

EXCLUSIVE: Nurse Who Investigates Sexual Assault Accuses Kenosha County DA of Getting Her Fired With Lies

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

A former nurse for Aurora Health in Kenosha is making a claim for damages against Kenosha County, alleging she was fired from her job because of lies told about her by an assistant Kenosha County District Attorney. It is the latest instance of controversial conduct by an ADA in the office of Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley.

The nurse, Rebecca Rodriguez, is a sexual assault examiner and often works with police and prosecutors in handling criminal sexual assault cases. Rodriguez alleges Aurora fired her in May after Kenosha County Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Smathers made a series of lies about her and her job performance. Rodriguez, through her attorneys, is making a claim for damages against the county. Such claims generally lead to lawsuits if they aren't paid.

Rodriguez' lawyer, in the claim for damages, says ADA Smathers stated Rodriguez was not a licensed nurse during some of the time she was handling sexual assault cases, is unprofessional, dresses inappropriately and has violated patient confidentiality and the federal HIPAA act which protects patients.

The claim for damages says all of Smathers' statements are untrue and that Rodriguez has been a licensed nurse in good standing with the state since 2006. The claim asserts Smathers has never worked with Rodriguez and has no firsthand knowledge of how she does her job.

The claim states Aurora Kenosha fired Rodriguez after receiving the allegations from Smathers.

Smathers isn't the only ADA in Graveley's Kenosha office whose conduct has created controversy. ADA Thomas Binger was strongly criticized in court by Judge Bruce Schroder for improper statements and conduct during the failed prosecution of Kyle Rittenhouse last year.

Graveley and Smathers have not responded to the allegation that they lied about Nurse Rodriguez to get her fired.

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