

You Sexy Thing Says D.A. to Crime Victim

(Sexual Harassment blog post)

by Brian Mahany

When someone mentions sexual harassment, we usually think of incidents at work between a manager and a subordinate (think Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky) or among co-workers. Sexual harassment can occur in all types of contexts, however, and it is still illegal. Take the case of Wisconsin District Attorney Ken Kratz.

Kratz has been the DA of Calumet County, Wisconsin for 18 years and Chair of the Wisconsin Crime Victims Rights Board. Tonight, he is in trouble.

Records just made public showed that Kratz sent multiple text messages to Stephanie Van Groll. At the time, Kratz' office was prosecuting Van Groll's ex-boyfriend for attempting to strangle her. Over 3 days, Kratz sent the woman approximately 30 texts. In his defense, he claims the texts were "respectful" and not sexual. Most people would likely disagree.

Kratz (age 50 and married), asked in one text if Van Groll (age 26) was the "kind of girl who likes secret contact with an older married elected DA." In another he called her a "hot, young nymph."

Van Groll, already the victim of the strangulation case, was afraid that Kratz would dismiss the strangulation charges against the ex-boyfriend if she did not submit to his advances. Instead of giving in, however, she went to the police.

Many chapters in the saga have already been written but the story is far from over. The office that regulates lawyers, the state Attorney General and the local police have all become involved. Ultimately a judge and the voters of Calumet County may also get some say. (According to press reports, Kratz still believes he did nothing wrong; on Wednesday he announced he is seeking re-election.)

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Mahany & Ertl represents victims of sexual harassment and employment discrimination. Wherever discrimination occurs, our lawyers are ready to help you receive justice. Justice and compensation.

From our offices in Milwaukee and Waukesha County, our sexual harassment and discrimination lawyers represent workers and victims anywhere in Wisconsin. In select cases, we help people anywhere in the United States. For a confidential and truthful evaluation of your case, contact attorney Brian Mahany today. Brian can be reached directly at (414) 704-6731 or at brian@mahanyertl.com