

iMessage
10/20/2020 5:22:17 PM

<https://www.statesman.com/news/20201020/prosecutors-asked-rangers-to-investigate-paxton-allegations>

10/22/2020 5:01:03 PM

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Second-whistleblower-who-accused-Ken-Paxton-of-15668494.php>

"I'm really shocked that they terminated any of these people. Those folks obviously did everything they could to protect themselves against retaliatory discharge," said Dave Feldman, a labor lawyer and former Houston city attorney. "That's just an invitation for disaster at the courthouse."

David Maxwell

How true!

Ryan Vassar

Liked "I'm really shocked that they terminated any of these people. Those folks obviously did everything they could to protect themselves against retaliatory discharge," said Dave Feldman, a labor lawyer and former Houston city attorney. "That's just an invitation for disaster at the courthouse."

<https://www.texastribune.org/2020/10/22/texas-ken-paxton-whistleblower-bribery/>

Lacey Mase

Cute picture, Blake.

Ryan Vassar



From 2014. Pre lasik

Lacey Mase

Laughed at an image

House Managers
EX. 372

Ryan Bangert

Handsome man

Ryan Vassar

<https://twitter.com/scottbraddock/status/1319412463260020736?s=20>

10/23/2020 7:38:03 AM

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton intervened in donor's legal affairs multiple times this year

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2020/10/23/texas-attorney-general-ken-paxton-intervened-in-donors-legal-affairs-multiple-times-this-year/>

Darren McCarty

Paywall

The Records

It's unclear how or when Paxton met Paul, whose home and business were raided by the FBI in August 2019. But the link between the two men became apparent to Paxton's top staff this spring during a fight over public records related to the raid, according to one of the seven employees who has accused Paxton of criminal acts.

Joe Larsen, an attorney who works for the same firm as Paul's criminal defense lawyer, asked the Texas Department of Public Safety in March to turn over any internal communications about Paul, his businesses or home, according to agency and court records released to *The News*. One of the department's employees participated in the FBI raid.

Paul has accused the agents of conducting the search without proper authority.

The Department of Public Safety refused to release records to Larsen, saying they were part of an active investigation. It hasn't been made public what law enforcement was investigating.

AT&T LTE 7:40 AM 83%

This year, Paxton has personally intervened at least four times on a range of legal matters before his agency that involved or helped Paul, including at least one previously unreported incident in early spring, *The News* has learned. Experts say that level of involvement from the attorney general, the state's top lawyer, is highly unusual and potentially unethical.

Some of Paxton's top deputies claim it is criminal.

Seven of the agency's most senior employees, including Mateer, have reported Paxton to law enforcement and accused him of serious crimes — bribery, abuse of office and improper influence. They said Paul is trying to use the attorney general's office for personal gain — and that Paxton is letting him.

The allegations spell more trouble for the embattled attorney general, who has been under indictment on separate securities fraud charges for five years. But despite calls to resign, the second-term Republican is refusing to step down.

AT&T LTE 7:40 AM 83%

Paxton has denied all wrongdoing, instead pointing the finger back at staff he said had gone rogue. His campaign spokesman, Ian Prior, defended Paxton's interventions, and said they were separate issues that "Mateer is deceptively conflating to help push his false narrative."



He did not answer other questions about Paxton and Paul's connections.

The Records

It's unclear how or when Paxton met Paul, whose home and business were raided by the FBI in

AT&T LTE 7:40 AM 83%

by Lauren McGaughy and Allie Morris

AUSTIN — For years, Jeff Mateer served as Attorney General Ken Paxton's loyal second in command, handpicked to run the agency's daily operations. But this summer, Mateer began to have serious qualms about his boss' behavior.

Paxton appeared to be taking a special interest in Nate Paul, a Texas real estate developer and campaign donor who was under federal investigation. In July, Mateer said, he learned Paxton wanted to personally appear in court to argue a charity's lawsuit against Paul's businesses should be put on hold.

Attorneys general almost never show up for such lawsuits, and since the case involved a campaign donor, Mateer said he considered the circumstances suspect.

"I was shocked," Mateer told *The Dallas Morning News* in his first in-depth interview since he stepped down 11 months ago. "That, in my memory, no attorney general has ever done."

The incident was not isolated.

AT&T LTE 7:43 AM 81%

Paxton's interest in the issue was not out of the ordinary, his spokesman said.

"The Attorney General asks questions of his staff about a variety of issues, big and small, every single day and he will continue to do so," Prior told *The News*.

The Intervention

Then, in early June, Paxton waded into a legal battle between an Austin nonprofit and Paul-controlled entities, according to interviews and court records.

The attorney general's office can intervene in lawsuits involving charities to protect the public interest. In this case, it seemed like Paxton's office was representing Paul, said the nonprofit's lawyer Ray Chester.

Top agency attorneys pushed the Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation to settle a financial dispute with the Paul-controlled entities for "pennies on the dollar" compared to what the nonprofit was owed under an earlier \$10.5 million agreement, Chester said.

AT&T LTE 7:43 AM 81%

"It was very clear all along this was coming straight from Paxton," he added.

Paul's lawyer, Michael Wynne, said the Mitte Foundation was misusing its charitable funds to keep litigating and refused to engage in any meaningful resolution.

Paxton seemed to agree. Prior, his campaign spokesman, told *The News* Thursday that the state agency's intervention was an effort to "encourage a settlement to stop the wasting of assets that were being diverted from charitable beneficiaries to lawyers."

The attorney general was so interested in the case that he planned to personally argue a motion in Travis County court, Mateer said; senior staff talked Paxton out of it. But his plan was so concerning, Mateer said, he met in person with Paxton on July 22 and asked him to cut all ties with Paul. He said Paxton agreed.

"I was hopeful that General Paxton was not going to have any further personal involvement with any matters that the office was handling that relate to Mr. Paul," Mateer told *The News*.

AT&T LTE 7:43 AM 82%

The battle escalated to Paxton's agency, which makes decisions about what government documents are releasable to the public.

Paxton became personally interested in the quarrel and began asking staff questions about the records request, according to one of the seven employees who accused Paxton of criminal acts and requested anonymity to speak about this incident.

Attorneys general rarely get directly involved in the thousands of records debates the agency settles every year, so his participation was curious, this individual said, and senior staff became concerned upon finding out that Paul contributed \$25,000 to Paxton's re-election campaign in 2018.

The attorney general's office deferred to the courts after Larsen sued the Department of Public Safety for the documents. There has been no movement in that lawsuit since June, court records show.

Larsen did not describe himself as Paul's attorney in court or public records filings. He did

AT&T LTE 7:47 AM 79%

At Paxton's request, staff at the Travis County District Attorney's Office in May listened to Paul's complaints of misconduct by the FBI and Department of Public Safety. The staff determined they could not send it to either agency for investigation, so they referred Paul's request to the Office of the Attorney General on June 10.

Top staff there said they looked into the matter, but alleged Paul turned down requests to provide documents or other proof of his claims. Worried that Paul was trying to use the agency for his own personal and financial gain, they told Paxton about the businessman's refusal to cooperate and recommended not advancing the investigation.

But Paxton disagreed.

In early September, Paxton brought on an outside attorney to keep investigating Paul's complaint. It is unclear how Paxton decided to give the job to Brandon Cammack, a criminal defense attorney in Houston with five years experience, although he has [links to Paul](#). Cammack has served as a [Houston Livestock](#)

AT&T LTE 7:48 AM 80%

"I was hopeful that General Paxton was not going to have any further personal involvement with any matters that the office was handling that relate to Mr. Paul," Mateer told *The News*.



Mateer said it was a promise Paxton did not keep.



AT&T LTE 7:48 AM 79%

Less than two weeks later, Paxton directed staff to rush a legal opinion in a move that raised red flags for employees and helped Paul avoid foreclosure sales on several properties in Texas, [The Austin American Statesman reported](#).

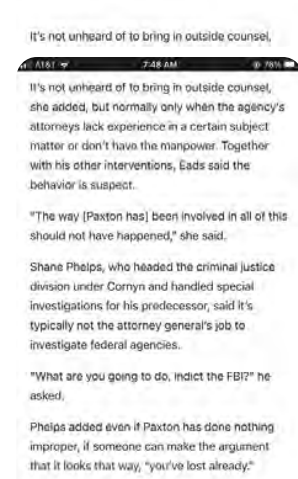
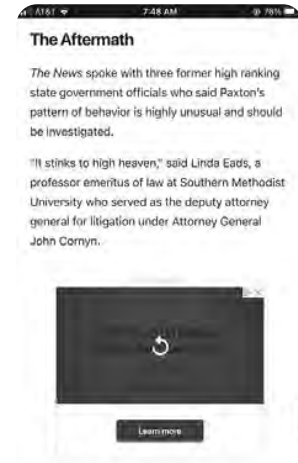
Paxton's spokesman said the attorney general was concerned about people having their properties foreclosed during the COVID-19 epidemic.

"They would not have an opportunity to get maximum value on their homes because of the rules put in place limiting the number of people that could attend a foreclosure due to COVID-19 restrictions," Prior told *The News*.

The Investigation

Meanwhile, throughout the summer, seven top staffers say Paxton was helping Paul go after the state and federal agencies investigating him. This would ultimately lead them to accuse their boss of serious crimes.





AT&T 7:48 AM 70%
"The contention that the [agency's] intervention somehow benefitted my client is preposterous," Wynne told Paxton in an Oct. 11 letter. Its involvement, he added, "only served to create confusion, frustrate any resolution, and add to false media reporting about these events."



Top GOP officials called the new allegations against Paxton concerning.

Paxton already faces separate first-degree fraud charges stemming from accusations he misled investors in a North Texas tech startup before his time as attorney general. He also is charged with

AT&T 7:47 AM 77%

In early September, Paxton brought on an outside attorney to keep investigating Paul's complaint. It is unclear how Paxton decided to give the job to Brandon Cammack, a criminal defense attorney in Houston with five years experience, although he too has links to Paul. Cammack has served on at least one Houston organization with Wynne, Paul's lawyer.

Cammack began his work in September, drafting subpoenas, interviewing private investigators and preparing to question witnesses and suspects, according to an invoice obtained by *The News*.



AT&T 7:48 AM 70%

Reacting to the uprising, Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore questioned Paxton's handling of the investigation and said her office would have no further involvement. [Paxton's agency dropped the inquiry the next day](#), saying it didn't have the authority to continue without the local prosecutor.

On Thursday, Prior questioned why Mateer was "so unwilling" to investigate Paul's complaint. He said the attorney general brought Cammack on to look into whether Paul's constitutional rights and other state laws were violated "based on a search and seizure that led to no criminal charges."

It's not clear whether the FBI is still investigating Paul, but the agency has brought no charges to date.

Wynne maintains Paul was mistreated by [Paxton's staff](#), including being "berated and insulted" by the agency's director of law enforcement. He said the agency was ultimately unhelpful.

"The contention that the [agency's] intervention

AT&T 100 7:40 AM 95%

Claire Bow, a lawyer who led another state agency, said she had not seen any attorney general behavior like Paxton in her nearly three decades of government service.

"I can't think of any legitimate purpose for what he's done," said Bow, who served a decade as an assistant attorney general. "He seems to have crossed all the lines and put himself out on a limb."

All three said Paxton should be investigated by an independent, outside party.

"You need to clear the air by bringing somebody in who is really respected to investigate what happened and to issue a clean bill of health," Eads said, "or an indictment."



The end. Quotes at end are good

David Maxwell

It gets deeper and deeper for KP

10/23/2020 10:11:02 AM

Ryan Vassar

<https://www.texastribune.org/2020/10/23/texas-ken-paxton-whistleblowers-fired/>

Ryan Vassar

Deputy Attorney General for Legal Counsel Ryan Vassar was put on leave on Monday, according to a former senior official with the agency who had knowledge about the leave but did not want to be named for fear of repercussions.

Prior said Friday that "one of the reasons that Lacey Mase was separated from the agency was for violating office policy, specifically mistreatment of subordinates" and Brickman "was insubordinate and violated other policies."

Prior confirmed Vassar had been placed on leave and said he could not comment further on why.

Lacey Mase

Yep

Lacey Mase

I am horrified and crushed

Ryan Bangert

I'm heartbroken for you, Lacey. This is slanderous.

David Maxwell

I agree! It will all come back on them n hopefully soon. I think it was targeted at your campaign.

10/23/2020 4:20:13 PM

Darren McCarty

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/23/turbulence-in-texas-ags-office-to-delay-google-ad-suit-431854>

Wait, I thought it was business as usual?

Lacey Mase

Things should be even better now that the abusive Deputy is gone.

Ryan Vassar

I thought we were seeking "reconciliation" in all of our relationships to continue the "good" work that we have been doing... but I "clearly missed something."

https://www.statesman.com/business/20201023/nate-paul-companies-alleged-to-have-defaulted-on-258m-in-debt?template=ampart&utm_source=SND&utm_medium=Twitter&utm_campaign=statesman&__twitter_impression=true

10/23/2020 6:59:41 PM

Ryan Vassar

"Amplify Credit Union, which held notes on three Paul-controlled properties and had planned to put them up for auction on Tuesday, Aug. 4, halted its proceedings because of Paxton's opinion, Amplify CEO Kendall Garrison told the Statesman. The opinion was 'provided to us by (an attorney for World Class) that Monday,' Garrison said."

Obviously just a coincidence, right?

LOL

And then he had the audacity to thank the office publicly at deputies meeting later that week for stopping foreclosure on individual homes. The man is a pathological liar

Darren McCarty

All about the people

David Maxwell

All about himself.

10/23/2020 8:18:47 PM

<https://whistleblower.org/press-release/press-statement-government-accountability-project-condemns-whistleblower-retaliation-in-texas-attorney-general-office/>

Ryan Vassar

Liked "<https://whistleblower.org/press-release/press-statement-government-accountability-project-condemns-whistleblower-retaliation-in-texas-attorney-general-office/>"

Lacey Mase

Loved "<https://whistleblower.org/press-release/press-statement-government-accountability-project-condemns-whistleblower-retaliation-in-texas-attorney-general-office/>"

That is a very legit group

10/26/2020 3:24:01 PM

Another staffer who accused Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton of crimes leaves the agency

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2020/10/26/another-staffer-who-accused-texas-attorney-general-ken-paxton-of-crimes-leaves-the-agency/>

Ryan Bangert

Paywall 🙄



David Maxwell

Darren you will be missed! It is definitely the OAG loss.

Ryan Vassar

<https://twitter.com/lmcgaughy/status/1320819316737101824?s=20>

Ryan Vassar

#solesurvivor

10/26/2020 5:55:35 PM

Ryan Bangert

Yep

Ryan Bangert

BW just dropped by my office to inform me of an "org chart change" — I will no longer be overseeing Special Litigation because it will now report directly to him.

Ryan Vassar

What a joke.

David Maxwell

😂. That's a train wreck waiting to happen!

Ryan Bangert

Let him have it.

He is a joke

Ryan Bangert

It will run itself. My fear is that he will force them to do crazy shit.

Lacey Mase

I find that absolutely hilarious.

Darren McCarty

Perfect! I've been trying to figure out how to get Patrick and Disher to join my new law firm.

Ryan Bangert

Maybe Aaron can help. I'm sure Patrick and Dish will love being managed by a failed prosecutor and a third year lawyer.

Ryan Bangert

Liked "Perfect! I've been trying to figure out how to get Patrick and Disher to join my new law firm. "

Ryan Vassar

Patrick and Dish will need to start using smaller words in their pleadings.

10/26/2020 7:27:05 PM

The agency is going to fall apart and that is one persons fault and one person only: KP

10/26/2020 8:43:32 PM

Lacey Mase

Laughed at "Patrick and Dish will need to start using smaller words in their pleadings."

Lacey Mase

I would LOVE to be a fly in the wall during the special lit meetings. Can you even imagine?! 😂😂😂😂

Ryan Vassar

<https://www.amazon.com/Going-Rouge-Sarah-Coloring-Activity/dp/0615332773>

Ryan Vassar

They might need some activities to keep the kids entertained.

Lacey Mase

HAHAHAHA

David Maxwell



10/27/2020 3:22:50 PM

David Maxwell

My phone conference with Margaret Moore and her team went well well today. They are excited about pursuing this investigation and will coordinate their efforts with the US Attorney Office so that both pursuits compliment each other. They obviously want to move quickly as they have time constraints. They are not going to wait on the Feds.

10/28/2020 11:26:48 AM

Ryan Bangert

So you know, I tendered my resignation today. Effective Nov 4

Darren McCarty

Thanks for letting us know

David Maxwell

No I didn't. Just got done at FBI. Went great. I'm staying until he fires me. Will keep y'all post on progress.

10/28/2020 3:18:38 PM

<https://apnews.com/article/business-ken-paxton-crime-austin-texas-ceb2fa0682125069467b184f06930178>

This is about alleged second complaint. Interesting

The first complaint was sent to Paxton's office because it involved allegations against the state and federal investigators, who would normally handle such a case. The second was sent to Cammack because he was already looking into Paul's allegations and it dealt with a federal judge, Moore told AP.

10/30/2020 5:54:48 PM

David Maxwell

It looks like Mark and I are going to be fired Monday at 9:00 am.

Ryan Vassar

I have not heard anything from HR yet about my leave, which is supposed to end on the same day.

David Maxwell

If they do Ryan ask them for a copy of the investigation. They won't have anything. Then make a PIC request for all emails between Paxton, Nate Paul, Webster etc every thing related to the rogue employees.

Being fired will make you a cool kid.

David Maxwell



Ryan Bangert

Brent told me today that he was "completing his investigation." He said it's all based on the documents he's reviewed.

Ryan Bangert

I told him the cold documents may tell one story, but ten months of loved experience tell the rest of the story.

Ryan Bangert

*lived

Darren McCarty

Definitely not loved 😞

Ryan Bangert

He also asked me how soon it was after RV received the signed Cammack contract that Jeff and I learned about it.

Ryan Bangert

He said that was one missing piece of his "investigation."

Lacey Mase

He's the worst

Ryan Bangert



David Maxwell

I never created any documents. He wanted me to conduct an illegal investigation.

Ryan Vassar



David Maxwell



Lacey Mase

So, another candidate in Wilco came up to me yesterday and said, "so, I understand you're acquainted with Brent Webster. Let me tell you about Mr. Webster. He's lazy and he's a liar. I'm glad you don't have to work for him." 😂😂😂 And then she walked away.

Ryan Vassar

That's awesome

Darren McCarty

Wow. Ringing endorsement

David Maxwell

No surprise there. That office was a disaster during his time there. We know that office lost over 200,000 in seizures because he didn't fill out the paperwork.

Ryan Bangert

Emphasized "So, another candidate in Wilco came up to me yesterday and said, "so, I understand you're acquainted with Brent Webster. Let me tell you about Mr. Webster. He's lazy and he's a liar. I'm glad you don't have to work for him." 🤔🤔🤔 And then she walked away."

Loved "So, another candidate in Wilco came up to me yesterday and said, "so, I understand you're acquainted with Brent Webster. Let me tell you about Mr. Webster. He's lazy and he's a liar. I'm glad you don't have to work for him." 🤔🤔🤔 And then she walked away."

11/2/2020 8:12:40 AM

Ryan Bangert

So David and Mark, [REDACTED] that BW is firing you guys this morning. 🤔

Ryan Vassar

Disliked "So David and Mark, [REDACTED] that BW is firing you guys this morning. 🤔"

Darren McCarty

Breakfast tacos?

David Maxwell

Yes

Lacey Mase

I'm so sorry, guys. This is just one giant crap show, which I know goes without saying. Y'all are two of my heroes, and I'm proud of you.

Lacey Mase

On the positive side, you'll be in good company. 😞😞

Darren McCarty

Please don't take my response as frivolous, just cynical. I too am sorry. Talk soon.

Ryan Bangert

Mark in 8th floor conference room with BW right now. Armed security standing outside door.

David Maxwell

I'm here waiting.

Darren McCarty

Salute when you go by

Mark Penley

I'm waiting too.

Ryan Bangert

Where?

Lacey Mase

The whole armed security thing is infuriating to me

Mark Penley

In 8th floor conference room

Lacey Mase

Loved "Salute when you go by"

Mark Penley

Thanks, Lacey!

Ryan Bangert

Make sure you find out why they're firing you

Lacey Mase

Don't worry, he'll give them a list of made up reasons.

Mark Penley

Will do.

David Maxwell

Still waiting. NW is still a no show.

Lacey Mase

Henry is probably coaching him on what to say

David Maxwell



David Maxwell

They told me not to wear my pistol in violation of 3006 and policy. I have a LTC license as well as peace officer.

Lacey Mase

How would that be a violation of policy?!?

They told you that today?

Lacey Mase

OAG policy allows employees to carry

Ryan Bangert

They keep making mistakes.

Lacey Mase

Mark, are you still there waiting?

David Maxwell

Our policy does not allow you to prevent a LTC from carrying it our building.

Lacey Mase

Exactly

David Maxwell

I hear they are the way over here. We enforce 3006 and have sued the City of Austin for it.

Lacey Mase

Yes, we have a whole team of 30.06 lawyers for that very purpose. Lord have mercy. 🙏🙏

David Maxwell

I intend to put them on notice and file a complaint with the team.

Lacey Mase

Wish we could be a fly on the wall

So they are 1 hour late to your 9:00?

David Maxwell

I will be professional. Yes they are. Mark went long.

Lacey Mase

You're waiting in HR?

David Maxwell

Yes in the training room.

David Maxwell

Still not here!

What happened to Mark?

David Maxwell

I haven't heard. I was told their meeting went long.

David Maxwell

He is still with Mark and he is interviewing him!

Lacey Mase

Oh gosh

Ryan Bangert

Yes.

Messages - Lacey Mase & Ryan Vassar & Ryan Bangert & Darren McCarty & David Maxwell & Mark Penley

Ryan Bangert



Ryan Bangert



David Maxwell

Crazy!

Mark Penley

Stop texting

Lacey Mase

Okay