

November 9, 2018

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Theresa W. Parrish
Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A.
P.O. Box 1888
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1888

Via Email Only

Re: Respectfully Declining to Produce Names and Communications

Mr. Hnasko and Ms. Parrish:

On May 2, 2018, I made a very pointed, very public accusation against Mr. Trujillo – to stand up for myself after years of feeling powerless, and to protect other women at the Legislature from experiencing the same harassment that I experienced. As things stand, I believe that I have accomplished both of those objectives.

You thoroughly investigated my allegations against Mr. Trujillo. The Report that you submitted on July 25, 2018, and which was agreed to and adopted by the Investigative Subcommittee on July 27, 2018, was thorough and fact-oriented. While I do not agree with every conclusion drawn in that Report, it is the end result of a meticulous process: the collection of evidence from both sides, the weighing of evidence from both sides, and the drawing of conclusions based on the assessed weight of evidence, all by experienced legal professionals. Based on the assessed weight of evidence, the Report – which is analytical, rather than personal or political – found probable cause that Mr. Trujillo violated our Legislature’s Anti-Harassment Policy on multiple occasions. The truth of my account has been corroborated by multiple credible witnesses, with nothing to gain and a great deal to lose by standing with me.

Furthermore, I was not the only woman to accuse Mr. Trujillo of sexual harassment. At least two other women have publicly accused Mr. Trujillo of sexual harassment as well. That they felt compelled to do so anonymously is a testament to the intense public pressure, scrutiny, and attempts at humiliation and attack that women face in these circumstances for telling the truth. Perhaps, one day, these other women who have accused Mr. Trujillo will feel that it is safe for them to tell their stories publicly, as I have done – but that is entirely up to them. I respect them and stand with them no matter what.

Mr. Trujillo has made it clear from the outset that he wants the names of all the women who contacted me regarding the allegations I made on May 2, 2018. I have refused to divulge the names of these women, or any other victims of sexual harassment, knowing in my heart that it was not my place to do so. Now, after months of fighting to protect these names, I have been ordered to disclose them, and to submit to a deposition where I am forced to disclose the contents of conversations of the most personal and painful nature – conversations that unfolded in strictest confidence, due to fear of retaliation that I believe to be well-justified.

To disclose these names and submit to such a deposition would inevitably require me either to violate my commitment to women who placed their trust in me, or to perjure myself. I refuse to do either. To betray the trust these women placed in me, and to expose them to the same attacks that I have experienced from Mr. Trujillo's supporters inside and outside of this process, would be an unacceptable violation of my own personal integrity. Therefore, knowing the approach that Mr. Trujillo has taken with his discovery and the approach he intends to take with my deposition, I respectfully decline to produce the requested documents, or to be deposed by Mr. Trujillo's attorneys. If the Special Master's discovery order is revisited, I may reconsider this position. But as things stand, I cannot move forward.

If that means that this process must end, then so be it. To both of you, I will say that I appreciate the manner in which you approached your task. Moving forward, I believe that the utilization of trauma-informed special counsel should play a major part in legislative investigations under any anti-harassment policies that the Legislature may formulate or re-formulate. But I cannot violate the trust of other victims. My integrity, and the safety, security, and privacy of victims, takes precedence.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonar", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Bonar