

JANE CLARE ORIE
State Senator-Majority Whip
40th Senatorial District

Mailing Address:
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Ingomar, PA 15127
(412) 592-5996

October 30, 2009

Ms. Jennifer Knapp Rioja
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Knapp Rioja,

It has come to my attention that you filed a complaint with Professor's Soska and Dalessandro, as well as, a formal criminal complaint that members of my staff were doing "campaign work" on official legislative state time.

As a former veteran prosecutor and legislator who has championed reform on these issues, I take great offense and would like to formally set the record straight with you. At no time has any member of my staff engaged in any political activity during, or on official state working time. What any member of my staff does on his or her personal leave, vacation time, or comp-time leave or even after working hours is their personal prerogative. My district office records and accounts for all legislative leaves for all staff.

For the record, I have had hundreds of interns over the years in my legislative office and I have never had any intern make these baseless, slanderous, and untrue allegations. Furthermore, I have never personally met you nor have I ever had the opportunity to personally speak with you, and I am highly offended by these untrue allegations.

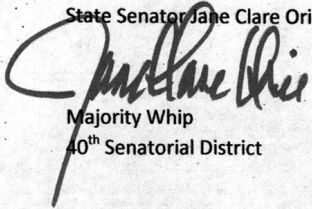
It is my understanding you refused to sit down and discuss your allegations of "my staff doing campaign work on official state time" with my Chief of Staff, Ms. Jamie Pavlot. I believe if you had afforded Ms. Pavlot the opportunity to discuss your allegations she would have been able to fully advise you on the legislative policy concerning all legislative leave time. I reiterate what any member of my staff does on his or her personal leave, vacation leave or comp-time leave or after work hours is that staff member's personal prerogative.

I also note that members of my staff received various emails from you criticizing Republican legislators and making derogatory remarks toward Republicans. I do not know if you came to my office with a political agenda, but the allegations are baseless, slanderous and defamatory.

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Please let this letter serve as my official response to your baseless, slanderous and defamatory allegations. If they continue I will seek legal action because my reputation and ethics are above reproach.

State Senator Jane Clare Orie



Majority Whip
40th Senatorial District

cc: Tracy M. Soska
John Dalessandro

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