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11	TRACY MILLER		
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13	on	E CALLEDDALA	
14	THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  COUNTY OF ORANGE		
15	GOVERNMENT CLAIM		
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18	IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF TRACY MILLER,		
19	Claimant,		
20	Ciaman,	GOVERNMENT CLAIM FOR DAMAGES	
21	vs.	PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE §§ 905 AND 910 et	
22	COUNTY OF ORANGE, and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,	seq.	
23			
24	Respondents.		
25			
26	Please be advised that Claimant TRACV MILLER ("Miller") hereby submits a		
27	Governmental Claim pursuant to <i>Government Code</i> sections 905 and 910, et seq. and other		
28	authorities.		
	- 1 -		
	CLAIM FOR DAMAC	GES AND OTHER RELIEF	

environment was created in retaliation for, and in order to disable Miller from, protecting her
remales subordinates who had properly and painfully reported sexual misconduct by a male superior,
Gary Logalbo, who was Spitzer's Best Man at his wedding. Miller was punished for refusing to
allow Spitzer to lionize the predator, gas-light, and further savage the reputation of the victims. This
environment was created in retaliation for, and in order to disable Miller from, disclosing or at least
delaying her reporting of Spitzer's conduct in Death Penalty Cases.

In or around December of 2020, Miller and other Senior Assistant District Attorneys met
with the OCDA Human Resources Director Matthew Pettit. Miller reported what she reasonably

believed to be violations of and/or noncompliance with federal and state statutes, regulations, and rules, including but not limited to unlawful harassment, unlawful hostile work environment, unlawful sexual harassment, failure to prevent sexual harassment, and conduct prohibited under *Government Code* section 12940, et seq., and/or other applicable federal and state statutes,

regulations, or rules. Miller's reporting included information that the OCDA was ignoring the sexual narassment that was committed by former Senior Assistant District Attorney Gary LoGalbo<sup>1</sup> and that the workplace was becoming hostile and unsafe.

For example, Miller reported that Chief Assistant District Attorney Shawn Nelson, in the presence of OCDA Todd Spitzer, would repeatedly say that Gary LoGalbo did not have real victims of sexual harassment. Not only was this information false, but the statement by Nelson and acceptance by Spitzer created a hostile working environment intended to silence reporters of narassment. The statements also made clear that reporting of harassment in the OCDA's office would not be tolerated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> LoGalbo was accused of subjecting numerous female employees to sexual harassment in the workplace. An independent investigation by Attorney Elizabeth Frater confirmed that LoGalbo did sexually harass numerous female employees.

In December of 2020, Miller reported to Nelson that Gary LoGalbo had sexually harassed another OCDA female employee. Nelson defended LoGalbo and referred to the female victim as a 'chicken" for not coming forward earlier.

In or around January of 2021, Miller reported to the HR Director Pettit that another female employee had been the victim of sexual harassment by LoGalbo. After Miller's report to Pettit, Todd Spitzer falsely accused the new sexual harassment victim of being dishonest. Spitzer, in retaliation for this victim reporting sexual harassment, directed Miller's subordinate to have to this new sexual harassment victim "written-up' for being dishonest. On or about February 1, 2021, Miller reported Spitzer's retaliatory directive to write-up the victim to HR Director Pettit.

On or about February 5, 2021, Miller participated in an interview with attorney Elizabeth Frater, who was investigating allegations of sexual harassment by LoGalbo. During the interview, Miller reported what she reasonably believed to be unlawful sexual harassment by LoGalbo. Miller reported that LoGalbo blocked the doorway in front of a female employee who was taking off her acket. LoGalbo said, as he was blocking the doorway so the female employee could not get out, "How much for the show?" On a different day, LoGalbo made a comment to the same female employee, "If you have babies, it better be because I'm making them with you." On another occasion, LoGalbo stated to the female employee that he was on a boat, and he could not stop thinking about the female employee. Additionally, Miller reported that almost daily LoGalbo would rell the female that he and Spitzer were best friends, and LoGalbo was the best man at Spitzer's weedding.

On or about February 8, 2021, Miller reported to the HR Director Pettit that there was another victim of sexual harassment by Gary LoGalbo. Later that same day, in an Executive Meeting, in retaliation for her protected activity, Nelson presented a plan to significantly diminish Miller's material responsibilities and effectiveness. Such retaliatory conduct included taking away many of the specialty units Miller supervised. Nelson proposed to assign Miller to the Branch

On or about March 11, 2021, Spitzer, in retaliation for Miller's protected activity, sent a group text to Miller and her peers to humiliate and damage Miller's reputation. Spitzer openly and unfairly criticized Miller by alleging that Miller was not doing her job and getting Spitzer a press conference. Spitzer's treatment was not only humiliating to Miller, but also indicated that Spitzer did not believe Miller was an effective supervisor.

On or about April 29, 2021, Spitzer, to attack and destroy the career of Miller and other employees, and an attempt to dissuade others from reporting unlawful conduct, stated that he was going to make the investigation report into the conduct of Gary LoGalbo public. Spitzer was aware that every employee of the OCDA and many in the community would know that Miller was 'Witness 21" in the report. "Witness 21" was described as a female Senior Assistant District Attorney. Miller was the only female Senior Assistant District Attorney at the OCDA.

Throughout May of 2021, and continuing, after Spitzer released the LoGalbo report, people at the OCDA would constantly refer to Miller as "Witness 21." Many in Spitzer's inner circle, such as Kimberley Edds, Shawn Nelson, and Paul Walters, stopped speaking to Miller.

For example, Walters stopped speaking to Miller about essential matters related to her duties, such as rotations and new supervisors being placed into her units. Edds would stop contacting Miller for media issues, something she would regularly do in the past. Instead, Edds would contact Miller's subordinates and exclude Miller from the conversations and decisions. Such contacts reasonably undermined Miller's duties, effectiveness, and abilities to be leader. After the release of the report, Nelson stopped talking to Miller about operational issues, something he would do on a regular basis pefore the report was released. Instead, Miller would hear of operational changes from other sources, which included her subordinates. All these acts of retaliation undermined Miller's duties, effectiveness, and abilities to be leader.

During an Executive Meeting in or around May of 2021, where Miller had numerous 1 ubordinates present, Spitzer was angry and yelling at Miller and one of her subordinates.. When Miller spoke to clarify an issue, Spitzer yelled, "Why are you speaking. Be quiet!" Every time Miller 3 attempted to calm Spitzer down or to clarify an issue, Spitzer would intentionally diminish Miller's 5 effectiveness as a supervisor by saying, "You just shut up." Spitzer then admitted that his treatment 6 of Miller was retaliatory by stating, "You take your little notes about me that end up in reports." 7 Spitzer's retaliatory treatment of Miller, in the presence of her subordinates, was offensive, umiliating, and undermined Miller's effectiveness as a supervisor in front of her subordinates and eers. 10 11 After the meeting the subordinate Assistant District Attorney told Miller that Spitzer should 12 hot have belittled Miller in front of her. Later that day, Spitzer called the subordinate Assistant 13 District Attorney and apologized for yelling at her. Spitzer also admitted to the subordinate Assistant 14 District Attorney that he was mad because of what Miller stated in the LoGalbo report. After this 15 neeting and continuing, Miller's effectiveness as a leader to this subordinate Assistant District 16 Attorney was greatly diminished. 17 In retaliation for Miller's protected activity, starting around the summer of 2021 and 18 19 continuing. Spitzer began to undermine Miller's supervisory role by speaking directly to Miller's 20 subordinates<sup>2</sup> on significant matters. Prior to Miller engaging in protected activity, Spitzer had stated 21 hat he was a big believer in the chain of command. Spitzer would always talk to Miller about 22 natters that involved her subordinates. However, after Miller engaged in protected activity, Spitzer 23 continued to undermine Miller and diminish her effectiveness and supervisory responsibilities by 24 alking directly to her subordinates and excluding Miller on the matters. 26

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Further, nearly all of Miller's subordinates were aware of how Miller was being ignored, undermined, and openly and unfairly criticized by Spitzer, Nelson and others.

In or around the summer of 2021, Spitzer spoke with Miller's subordinate, who was a member of the attorney's union. Spitzer told this subordinate that he was angry at Miller and another female witness because of protected statements they made in the LoGalbo investigation. Spitzer knew or should have known that he had great influence over Miller's subordinates. Spitzer was aware that every time he openly criticized Miller to her subordinates, it diminished Miller's effectiveness as a supervisor. Thus, when Spitzer criticized Miller to her subordinate Union member Spitzer knew that this subordinate would have no choice but to believe that Miller was less effective as a supervisor. This was evident as this subordinate began taking union concerns and issues to other Senior Assistant District Attorneys. Prior to Spitzer's comments, the union member would routinely discuss union issues with Miller.

From the summer of 2021 and continuing, Miller's subordinates would repeatedly tell her that Spitzer hated Miller and she had no power at the OCDA anymore. For example, one Senior Deputy District Attorney told Miller that Spitzer undermines Miller, glares at Miller, and obviously nates Miller. Some subordinates even told Miller that Spitzer would yell at the subordinate because Spitzer did not like Miller. During 2021 and continuing, in retaliation for Miller's protected activity, Spitzer and Nelson would repeatedly belittle and humiliate Miller in Executive Meetings. Some of the retaliatory comments made towards Miller include, but are not limited to, "Be quiet," "Why are you talking," "I am not asking for your feedback," "I don't need an opinion from you. Shut up and disten." Often, these offensive and retaliatory comments were made in the presence of Miller's subordinates and peers.

From the summer of 2021 and continuing, Spitzer, in retaliation for Miller's protected activity, repeatedly undermined Miller's effectiveness as a supervisor by excluding Miller from conversations related to her supervision. As a result, Miller's subordinate, a Grade V Deputy District

Attorney, stopped contacting Miller about issues and concerns and instead spoke directly to Spitzer or others.

Another example of undermining Miller's effectiveness as a supervisor, in September of 2021, Spitzer spoke to two of Miller's subordinates, Grade IV Deputy District Attorneys, about matters that should have included Miller. After speaking to the subordinates, Spitzer forbid Miller's subordinates from telling Miller about the conversations. This conduct was meant to undermine Miller's effectiveness as a supervisor.

In or around September of 2021 and continuing, Nelson threatened to take away all promotional responsibility from Miller and other Senior Assistant District Attorneys that provided statements in the sexual harassment investigation against LoGalbo. Promotional responsibilities have traditionally been the responsibility of the Senior Assistant District Attorneys. Threatening to removing these responsibilities was further retaliatory treatment in order to undermine the effectiveness of Miller's supervisory role. Now all of Miller's subordinates were aware that Miller was no longer involved in the decision-making process for promotions.

## FARIAS/GAXIOLA GONZALES

On March 31, 2021, Aminadab Gaxiola Gonzales shot and killed 4 people, including 9-year-old Matthew Farias. DDA Mena Gurguis is prosecuting that Capital case. On 7/7/21 Rafael Farias, Matthew's father was arrested for felony attempted grand theft and offering a false document. The victim in the grand theft is Blanco Tamayo, the mother of Matthew Farias. The prosecutor handling the case was supervised by an Assistant District Attorney who was supervised by Miller.

On November 15, 2021, Spitzer addressed the OCDA Executive Committee regarding the Gonzales case. He reported a phone conversation he had with Rafael Farias, a victim in the Gonzales case. Spitzer stated the conversation included a discussion of Farias' own pending criminal case. The conversation revealed potential violations of Rule 2-100(A) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Massiah v. United States and the undermining of the prosecution of Gonzales.

On December 22, 2021, Miller was interviewed by the OCATT investigator. During Miller's interview, she disclosed that she reasonably believed the following:

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- Spitzer had improper contact with Farias, a represented defendant.
- That contact prejudiced Farias' Constitutional Right to Counsel and the Marsy's Law rights of the victim in that case, Blanco Tamayo
- That contact prejudiced the rights of the capital defendant Aminadab Gaxiola

  Gonzales, by discussing favorable treatment with a witness (Rafael Farias) against
  him and seeking to withhold the true facts of that contact.
- That contact prejudiced the victims' rights in Gonzales case.
- Spitzer's materially false and misleading 11/30/21 statement compounded his
  previous misconduct, put in jeopardy the prosecution of both criminal cases and
  jeopardized the careers of all the prosecutors who had any responsibilities in either
  case.

Miller directed that her December 22, 2021, interview be given to the prosecutor assigned to he special circumstance homicide case and the prosecutor assigned to the OCATT case and that her nterview be discovered to each defendant's attorney.

On January 3, 2022, during an Executive meeting, in retaliation, Spitzer undermined and humiliated Miller in front of the entire Executive Committee, which included Miller's subordinate, an Assistant District Attorney. Prior to the Executive Meeting, Spitzer had repeatedly ordered Miller to inform this Assistant District Attorney that Spitzer was going to terminate or demote her if she did not change her communication style. In the January 6th Executive Meeting, after this Assistant District Attorney questioned Spitzer about his comments, Spitzer blamed Miller for telling her about the threat of termination or demotion despite his repeated orders. This was meant to disable and discredit Miller's mandated reporting of Spitzer's conduct. Thereafter Spitzer ordered the delay of the release of Miller's December 22, 2021, interview. That order had the intended effect of discrediting Miller's report and soiling her reputation.

As of January 13, 2022, Miller's December 22, 2021, interview had still not been released to		
the defense. On January 13, 2022, Spitzer wrote a memo titled, "Memo to the Farias + Gaxiola		
Files". The memo is Spitzer's re-imaging of his November 15, 2021, statement to the Executive		
Committee and his November 30, 2021, statement to the OCDA Investigator. Spitzer first blamed		
the OCATT Investigator who interviewed Miller on December 22, 2021. Spitzer claimed to be		
'alarmed" that Investigator "lacked empathy and understanding" in his approach and wrote with		
'aggressive and ill-intent language" and that Investigator merely summarized the tape-recorded		
interview with Miller. Spitzer claimed that the OCATT Investigator summary was bland and, if		
anything, charitable. "Aggressive and ill-intent" better describe Spitzer's attempt to re-write this		
event. Spitzer then blamed the homicide Investigator for not asking him the right question. Spitzer		
states, "I did not need Mr. Baytieh to inform me that we need to memorialize this conversation and I		
readily agreed a DA Investigator should interview me." Of course, if Spitzer "did not need informing		
by Mr. Baytieh," he would already have given his statement to any OCDA Investigator. In fact,		
Spitzer would not have had the prohibited conversation with the represented defendant in the first		
place. Spitzer was only "alarmed" that his conduct was revealed. In the end, Spitzer blamed three		
very senior prosecutors and two OCDA Investigators for doing what they were required by law to		
do.		
Throughout the year, Spitzer had threatened to take away the OC GRIP (Gang Reduction and		
Intervention Partnership) program. OC GRIP is a valuable program that helps prevent minors from		
oining criminal street gangs. Miller was one of the people that created and lead GRIP and has		
supervised the program on behalf of the OCDA Office for the past 14 years As Spitzer continuous		

<sup>28</sup> program would be if she retired early.

hreats to take away GRIP were in retaliation for Miller's protected activity. By January of 2022,

Miller reasonably believed that Spitzer was going to dismantle the GRIP program because he knew

how much it meant to Miller. Miller knew that the only way Spitzer would not dismantle the GRIP

On or about January 14, 2022, after a continuous pattern of retaliatory treatment by Spitzer, Nelson, and other employees of Respondent, Miller's working conditions had become intolerable. Miller also reasonably believed that her working conditions would become even more intolerable after she reported Spitzer's false statements. Based on the totality of circumstances, Miller believed that she had no reasonable alternative except to retire early. Thus, Miller submitted an email to Spitzer providing him notice that she would be retiring on January 27, 2022.

On or about January 20, 2022, while Miller was off work due to an illness, Spitzer subjected her to further retaliation by sending Miller an email ordering her to call him before she returns to work, to have someone clean out her desk, and stated that he needs Miller's office ASAP. That same afternoon, Miller received an email from her paralegal that Spitzer came by Miller's office and asked her about the status of packing up the office. Fortunately, HR Director Pettit was present and old Spitzer it was unlawful to pack up Miller's belongings. Nonetheless, Spitzer, who believes he is untouchable at the OCDA Office, told them, "I made myself clear in the email. It was a directive to have Tracy clear out her office.

## 5. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF INJURY:

Each one of Respondents' actions described in above amount to an adverse employment action against Miller and/or the pattern of conduct, taken as a whole, materially and adversely affected the terms, conditions, or privileges of Miller's employment. Additionally, the above-described conduct was reasonably likely and did impair Miller's job performance and prospects for advancement.

Miller further alleges that as an actual and proximate result of said conduct, Miller suffered and will continue to suffer, emotional distress, loss of past and future earnings, including loss of pension, and loss of reputation. Miller also claims attorney's fees under applicable provisions. All

he actions as set forth above constitute a violation of the California Labor Code section 1102.5 and 1 102.6. KNOWN WITNESSES: 6. 3 4 Todd Spitzer, Shawn Nelson, Paul Walters, Patrick Dixon, Keith Bogardus, Brahim Baytieh, Susan Price, Glenn Robinson, Kimberly Edds, Matthew Pettit, Barbara Kim, Gary LoGalbo, 6 Elizabeth Frater, Chris Duff, Mena Gurguis, Kenneth Schiffner, Tammy Spurgeon, Amanda 7 Maldonado, Troy Pino, Jason Baez, Kimberly Doyle, Nicole Nicholson, Lesly Young, Eric 8 Scarbough, Steve McGreevy, Ron Seeman, Barbara Kim, Shaddi Kamiabipour, Narah Jayasekera, 9 Scott Zidbeck, Tamika Williams, and additional witnesses from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office and/or the County of Orange. 11 12 7. AMOUNTS CLAIMED: 13 Pursuant to Government Code section 910(f), the amount of compensatory and other 14 damages claimed exceeds \$10,000.00 and will lie within the unlimited jurisdiction of the Superior 15 Court. Claimant also claims and seeks to recover herein statutory and other penalties, damages, 16 attorney's fees, expert fees, costs as provided by law, including, inter alia, C.C.P. section 1021,5, 17 abor Code sections 923, 1101, 1102, 1102.5, et seq., and 2698, et seq. Government Code sections 18 \$300, et seq., 3500, et seq., and 53298, et seq., and/or other applicable authorities. 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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ži.	Dated: February 22, 2022	LAW OFFICE OF JOHN D. BARNETT LAW	
3	<u></u>	John D Barnett	
4	By:	JOHN D. BARNETT	
5		Attorneys for Claimant TRACY MILLER	
6			
7			
8	Dated: February 22, 2022	LAW OFFICE OF BIJAN DARVISH	
9	Ву:		
10	Dy.	BIJAN DARVISH	
11		Attorneys for Claimant TRACY MILLER	
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	- 14 - CLAIM FOR DAMAGES AND OTHER RELIEF		