



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LORI SWANSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 10, 2008

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Ms. Amy Lawler

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

Dear Ms. Lawler:

After having served just 90 days as an Assistant Attorney General, and having been a lawyer just a few years, you sent a letter to Attorney General Swanson stating that you represent the staff and wanted to conduct a "meet and confer" with the office. Shortly thereafter, you were invited by Solicitor General Alan Gilbert and me to a meeting to express your views concerning shortcomings at the office.

You failed to identify those concerns at the meeting, and after repeated requests by me and Solicitor General Gilbert, you finally stated you had concerns about the ethics of filing lawsuits against two companies that duped foreclosure victims into paying thousands of dollars in "consulting fees." These companies took money from vulnerable homeowners and failed to provide any service. The first company, Foreclosure Assistance Solutions, LLC, has restraining orders against it by the Texas Attorney General and the North Carolina Attorney General. The second company, American Housing Authority, has been the subject of lawsuits by the Illinois Attorney General and the Ohio Attorney General. These companies, operating under a variety of names such as FAS, Mortgage Second Chance, and American Housing Financial, are the subject of many complaints filed around the country. A simple "Google" search of their names gives a pretty good description of the breadth and depth of the fraud perpetrated by those companies and others like them.

Attorney General Swanson asked you to make the cases a priority because, as she explained, homeowners were being hurt. She provided you with consumer complaints, the relevant statutes, and copies of lawsuits filed by other Attorneys General against these companies. The Attorney General also told you that there would be a news release issued with the lawsuits so that other homeowners facing foreclosure would be warned of the scam and not fall victim to it. While you question the value of a news release in warning the public about financial scams, in fact news releases are extremely important to educate and warn others who may be approached by such scam artists. Indeed, I note that at least four other Attorneys General suing these and similar companies also issued releases to warn their consumers of this scam. (See enclosed.)

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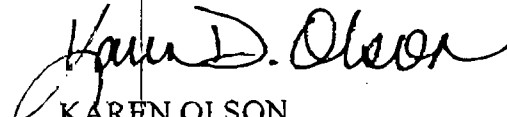
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Because of your subsequent allegation regarding these cases, the office reassigned the mortgage foreclosure scam files to your manager. You then sent me an e-mail that states you did not have an ethical concern regarding the filing of these cases.

Last week, after you sent the e-mail, you contacted MinnPost and restated your allegation about the ethics of this Office as it relates to the filing of these foreclosure fraud lawsuits. I am sure you are aware of your responsibilities under the Rules of Professional Conduct. One of those rules requires that, if you believe there has been an ethics violation as it relates to the filing of these cases, you report the alleged violation to the Minnesota Board of Professional Responsibility. You have not done so.

You are hereby placed on administrative leave. I expect you to send me a letter by the end of the week itemizing in detail your allegations of ethical concerns regarding the filing of these cases. If you believe the professional rules of ethics have been violated as it relates to the filing of these cases, you should also share your concerns with the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Sincerely,

  
KAREN OLSON  
Deputy Attorney General