

STATEMENT BY JOE MORRISSEY

The allegations set forth in the Richmond Times Dispatch are absolutely false. I did not handle her guilty plea. The two lawyers who represented Ms. Morris will confirm that her allegations are specious. Here are the facts:

Several years ago (approximately 6), I met Kanika Morris, a flight attendant for a local airline. She was a girlfriend with whom I had a brief relationship.

On February 1, 2016, Ms. Morris came to my office. Ms. Morris had been charged with grand larceny, to wit: fraud. I had not seen her in several years. She was interviewed by another attorney, Catherine Mullins, who took all the notes. Thereafter, Catherine Mullins came to my office and briefed me on the case. Catherine then brought Ms. Morris into my office to discuss the case. Ms. Mullins stayed in the office with Ms. Morris and me the entire time. At no time was there any inappropriate behavior, inappropriate touching, etc. Ms. Morris left my office and Ms. Mullins and I continued to discuss the case. (See attached statement from Ms. Mullins).

Several days later, Ms. Morris retained me.

It is my recollection that sometime later in February 2016, there were some flirtatious texts back and forth between Ms. Morris and myself. Notwithstanding the flirtatious text messages, at no time were we ever alone or otherwise intimate.

I assigned two different attorneys to handle her case. First Ms. Mullins and then Mr. Galanides. Thereafter, Ms. Morris stopped by the office on several occasions to drop off paperwork. On each and every occasion, Ms. Mullins met with Ms. Morris and I did not have any contact with her whatsoever.

The last contact that I recall having with Ms. Morris was in June of 2016.

At no time did she ever tell any attorney that she was dissatisfied in any way with the firm's services or with me.

Thereafter, Paul Galanides took over the case and had 100% contact with her. He handled her sentencing and she was given a 90-day jail sentence. The last communication I had with Ms. Morris was when she called my office to say that she was disappointed with the results and demanded that I do whatever I could to have her avoid jail time. I took this as a threat and did not return her call. She then texted me. I did not return her text.

Ann Lawson

From: Catherine Mullins <csmullins33@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 4:29 PM
To: Ann Lawson
Subject: Kanika Morris

I remember meeting with Kanika Morris on 2-1-16. I met with her alone in my office and then the two of us met with Joe in his office. To my recollection, I was with her the entire time and she was never alone in Joe's office. She told me she knew Joe previously from his work with his group home. Because Joe knew her, he offered her a greatly reduced rate for her case. After the meeting, she left the office and Joe and I continued to talk briefly about the case and why he gave her a reduced fee. I do not recall if she retained us on that day or if she came back later to retain us.

I was the primary attorney working on the case and I had several communications with the prosecutor and with Ms. Morris. To prepare for the preliminary hearing, she came to the office and dropped off paperwork with me. I don't remember her meeting with Joe individually on that day or any other day in the office.

Catherine Mullins

Sent from my iPhone