

THE CAMPAIGN TO ELECT
THOMAS FEITER (“FIGHTER”)
STATE ATTORNEY

SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL: 9589 0710 5270 0354 7684 55

DATE: July 3, 2024

TO: The Florida Bar

SUBJECT: Complaint on Suspicion of Violations of The Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct, Election Interference, Election Fraud, Coercion and Intimidation, Corrupt Practices, Abuse of Official Position, and Exploitation of Military Veterans, Senior Citizens, and Vulnerable Adults

ATTORNEYS: Ronald Dion DeSantis (Florida Bar No.: 15976)
Andrew Asher Bain (Florida Bar No.: 104882)
James William Uthmeier (Florida Bar No.: 113156)
Joshua Dean Grosshans (Florida Bar No.: 35828)
Jeffrey Michael Aaron (Florida Bar No.: 123473)
Seth Aaron Hyman (Florida Bar No.: 113315)

BLUF: It is this author’s opinion that the above referenced attorney members of The Florida Bar are seeking to interfere with a fair and transparent election of the next State Attorney in the Ninth Judicial Circuit by engaging in (1) a scheme to unlawfully remove any Republican candidate from the 2024 general election in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida; and/or (2) a scheme to unlawfully aid NPA Candidate Andrew Bain get elected/appointed State Attorney.

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Attorney Thomas Feiter (“Fighter”), B.C.S. (Florida Bar No.: 25954) am writing this letter out of grave concern for the behavior of the six (6) above referenced members of the Florida Bar. I believe their conduct undermines public trust in lawyers and the law, is contrary to the rule of law, and violates Florida Statutes as well as The Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct.

BACKGROUND AND CHRONOLOGY

I am a registered Republican, running for the position of State Attorney of the 9th Judicial Circuit. My website is tomfighter.com.

My Republican primary opponent is Seth Hyman. His website is electsethyman2024.com.

Attorney Seth Hyman was terminated/fired from the State Attorney's Office in 2017 for unethical conduct.

The Chief Assistant State Attorney investigated a complaint against Mr. Hyman. After speaking with multiple witnesses including members of the private defense bar, the public defender's office and the judiciary, her report states that "it appears Mr. Hyman has a pattern of behavior that is in conflict with the mission and ethical standards of this office." Further, it states that "Mr. Hyman has compromised or attempted to compromise justice in order to gain an advantage in a case." That he "continues to make poor judgement decisions." *See Attachment 1.*

Seth Hyman filed to run as a Republican to be the elected State Attorney on January 27, 2023.

I filed to run as a Republican on February 6, 2024 (after not seeing, in my opinion, a competent or suitable candidate put their name forward).

On April 22, 2024, I qualified to be a Republican candidate with the Florida Division of Elections.

Between May 10, 2024, and June 18, 2024, I had multiple meetings, phone calls, text messages and e-mails with **Attorney James Uthmeier** (Chief of Staff to **Attorney and Governor Ronald Dion DeSantis**), **Attorney Jeff Aaron**, **Attorney Joshua Grosshans** and Ms. Erin Huntley in reference to my running for State Attorney against Governor DeSantis' No Party Affiliation (NPA) appointee, **Attorney Andrew Bain**. In every meeting, each of these individuals pressured me to drop out of the race to clear the way for Andrew Bain – because that is what Governor DeSantis wanted, according to each of them.

On May 10, 2024, I was invited to meet with Attorney Joshua Grosshans and Orange GOP Chair Erin Huntley at the GOP office on South Orange Avenue. During this meeting, Mr. Grosshans and Ms. Huntley pleaded with me to understand that a Republican could not win in Orange or Osceola County. They told me that they needed me to drop out the race because Andrew Bain was the Governor's choice for State Attorney, and that he had a chance as an NPA. They said that it would embarrass the governor if his choice drew opposition from inside the Republican Party. None of this sat well with me and I advised them of that. They then said that if I dropped out, it would be looked very favorably upon by the governor and the local party. If I refused to drop out, they assured me that no one in the Republican Party would support me for State Attorney, and that there would be consequences, which were left vague.

On May 23, 2024, I was invited to a meeting with Attorney James Uthmeier and Attorney Jeff Aaron at Rosen Shingle Creek. I accepted their invitation to talk. At this meeting, Mr. Uthmeier and Mr. Aaron asked me what I wanted/needed in order to drop out of the race. They asked if I was interested in being a judge or running for the State Legislature. I said I had no such ambition. They asked me how I expected to win as a Republican in a deeply Democratic circuit. I said I could do it if I am the Republican nominee. I told them that my name would be first on the ballot and that with "Fighter" after my name – as everyone knows me in the community – I could do it.

They pleaded with me to drop out of the State Attorney's race so that Andrew Bain could win – or come in second. They said I did not have a chance. They told me that the Republican Party would raise millions of dollars to ensure Andrew Bain remained in office. I was very surprised (especially as I am a Republican and Andrew Bain is not) and offended by their offers and pleas, but I left the meeting on friendly terms with them. I asked

that they reconsider their proposed course of action and talk with the governor about supporting me as the Republican candidate for the job.

On May 29, 2024, I received a call from James Uthmeier. He told me that he had run my proposed course of action by the governor and that the governor said no. I asked him if he mentioned to the governor that my name is “Fighter” and that I would be first on the ballot. I don’t remember getting an answer on that. But Mr. Uthmeier said that Governor DeSantis wants Andrew Bain in that job. I could not believe that, and I told him that I wanted to speak with the governor himself. He said no and that he speaks for the governor, and that the governor has made up his mind about supporting Andrew Bain. He said they are about to do some major fundraising for Andrew Bain and that cannot be stopped. I told him I would think about everything he said.

On June 5, 2024, at 3:50 pm, I texted Attorney James Uthmeier, “My wife and my heart are telling me to stay in [the race] and fight on. I just want to do it in a way that does not offend you or our governor.”

On June 5, 2024, at 8:12 pm, I received a phone call from Attorney Jeff Aaron. He was very upset that I was still in the race. I told him that with my name first on the ballot and with “Fighter” after my name we have a chance. He yelled and said that I was a “selfish piece of shit” if I stayed in. I apologized to him for upsetting him and I told him that I hoped he could respect my decision. He told me I needed to drop out. If I did not, he said they would go after me and my family. I asked for clarity on that statement, and he brushed it off.

On June 12, 2024, at around 6:30 pm, I met with Governor DeSantis’ appointee for Orange County Supervisor of Elections, Glen Gilzean at a Veteran’s event in Orlando. I shook his hand, and we had a brief and pleasant conversation. I mentioned that I wanted to come make a public records request at his office on Andrew Bain. I shared my contact information with him, he said he would text me back, but never did. He immediately left the event after our conversation.

On June 12, 2024, at 10:20 pm, I texted Attorneys James Uthmeier and Jeff Aaron asking about the two documents that Andrew Bain signed **under penalties of perjury** that he intended to run as a Republican. I said that this was careless on Andrew Bain’s behalf.

On June 13, 2024, at 12:46 am, Attorney James Uthmeier texted me “You’re a dishonest person. Please don’t communicate with me again.”

On June 13, 2024, I went to Orange County Supervisor of Elections, Glen Gilzean’s office to make a public records request to inquire as to Andrew Bain’s party registration history. I obtained the records that same day and it reflected that Bain was a Democrat until 2017, when he switched to being an NPA (which he still holds himself out to be to the public, even though he is backed by the Republican Party).

On June 18, 2024, I received a certified letter in the mail from the Orange GOP stating that they intended to endorse Seth Hyman for State Attorney.

That same day, I tried to call Erin Huntley (the Orange GOP Chair), but she did not take my call or did not answer. I then called Attorney Joshua Grosshans to verify if the letter was real or a joke (as I knew Mr. Hyman was fired by the State Attorney’s Office for multiple ethical concerns). We spoke for 12 minutes. He confirmed the authenticity of the letter and told me that I would be killing any hopes of becoming a judge or getting any political appointments if I stayed in this race. He said that Andrew Bain is who the governor wants to remain

State Attorney. He told me that they were endorsing Seth Hyman for State Attorney because Seth is a “team player” and I am not. I asked him if he was aware of the reason Mr. Hyman was terminated from the State Attorney’s Office. He assured me that there were in possession of all the facts and that it did not matter. What mattered was that Seth Hyman is a team player and I am not.

On June 19, 2024, a letter was dated by the Division of Elections telling me that my nickname request was rejected and that my name would appear on the ballot as Thomas Feiter (“Fighter”) – but instead simply as Thomas Feiter. My last name is pronounced “Fighter” and my law firm has been called “Fighter Law” since 2011. Even my board certification certificate from The Florida Bar reads, “Thomas Feiter (“Fighter”).” I am appealing the ballot nickname rejection with the Division of Elections.

On June 20, 2024, my office received a package that was delivered via U.S. Mail containing fecal matter. I filed a report with the Orlando Police Department (Case No.: 2024-00226006 via OPD Officers Jose Grullon #36522 and P. Evancoe #16752) as well as with U.S. Postal Inspector Ed Sanabia (efsanabia@uspis.gov – or 407-850-6396).

As a registered Republican, I was invited to attend a special meeting of the Orange GOP at Ventura Country Club in Orlando, Florida. *See Attachment 2.*

On June 27th, 2024, that special meeting was held. The executive council voted to endorse Seth Hyman over me in what appeared to be an orchestrated and premeditated exploitation of the vulnerable adult members of the Orange GOP (of whom many are military Veterans) to ensure no Republican is on the general election ballot – or, if there is one, it is one who is a “team player.”

I filed a complaint with the Republican Party of Florida’s (RPOF’s) General Counsel under their Whistleblower Policy. That policy can be found in the Appendix of the RPOF Rules of Procedure which states that the RPOF is committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and compliance with the law. I told them that I believed there to be significant concerns regarding possible violations of ethics, integrity, and the law (e.g., Florida Statutes § 104.0515, Florida Statutes § 825.103, 18 U.S.C. § 594 and 18 U.S.C. § 245, Florida Bar’s Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 4-1.14 and Rule 4-8.4) by its representative(s) and/or members. I requested they conduct an appropriate and transparent investigation on this matter.

I was shocked and disappointed by the behavior of Orange GOP Chair Erin Huntley (and others in attendance, including Attorney Joshua Grosshans) and the exploitative process she (they) deployed on the vulnerable adult members of the Orange GOP.

CONDUCT AT THE JUNE 27, 2024 MEETING

The audience was mainly comprised of elderly senior citizens and military Veterans (most of whom I perceived to fit the definition of “vulnerable adults” under Chapter 415 of the Florida Statutes).

The very senior audience was clearly driven and influenced by significantly younger Early Career Professionals, Twentysomethings, and Thirtysomethings including Orange GOP Chair Erin Huntley, Attorney Joshua Grosshans, and Mr. Austin Arthur. It was apparent that Ms. Huntley, Mr. Grosshans, and Mr. Arthur knew members of the audience on a personal level (i.e., it appeared these younger members gained the trust of the senior citizen members). The seniors seemed very happy to be getting time with and attention from them.

What I witnessed that night was nothing short of a breach of their trust, an exploitation of their vulnerabilities, and **an attempt to improperly influence their most sacred American right – their vote.**

Based on my observations, this is all part of a larger scheme to have Governor DeSantis' NPA appointee, Andrew Bain, remain State Attorney in violation of The Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct.

On June 27th, 2024, I arrived early, and Ms. Huntley invited me inside. She told me that this should be a quick meeting, but that the candidates would be allowed to make speeches, field questions from the audience, and then there would be a vote on who the executive committee chooses to endorse.

Trusting all that would happen, I went around the room introducing myself. The seniors and Veterans I met appeared happy to meet me. Although many of them were wheelchair bound or too old to stand for long (needing a chair, personal aide or walking stick/aide), they were listening, attentive and engaged. They appeared to be kind and open to hearing from me.

The meeting started and the candidates were told we had three (3) minutes to address the Orange GOP. I spoke for 2 minutes and 45 seconds, at which point Ms. Huntley curtly interrupted me, telling me I had 15 seconds left. I respected the rules and ended on time. Immediately at the close of my comments, Ms. Huntley interrupted those applauding me and said there was still another speech (or something to that effect), and quickly introduced Mr. Hyman.

During my time, however, I was able to distribute to the audience an 8-page public records request I had made on Seth Hyman being terminated from the State Attorney's Office (citing ethical concerns and the morals/character of Seth Hyman by members of the State Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, and a well-respected member of the Judiciary). *See Attachment 1.*

During my time, I asked if any of the members of the audience were aware that Mr. Hyman was terminated by the State Attorney's Office – the office he seeks to lead *with their support*. Apparently, not one of the senior citizens was aware of that fact as none of their hands went up.

Member candidate Seth Hyman followed and was allowed to speak for more than 3 minutes and 45 seconds (uninterrupted by Ms. Huntley). I could see, during his speech, that the audience was actively looking at, pointing to, and discussing amongst themselves the contents of the document I provided them. They seemed very confused and interested in knowing more about it.

Orange GOP Chair Erin Huntley denied the senior citizens ample opportunity to read the document and rushed the audience to vote on an **instant** "motion to endorse" member candidate Seth Hyman that was made **as** the audience was still applauding his speech. Note: Ms. Huntley did not interrupt those applauding Seth Hyman's speech, as she did with mine.

The motion to endorse member candidate Seth Hyman was quickly seconded, and we (the candidates) were told to step outside. Before leaving, I could not help but see the senior citizen audience looking around with confused faces, a look in which I joined. No questions of the candidates were permitted. I saw a hand up and brought it to Ms. Huntley's attention. She absolutely disregarded it and again told the candidates to leave. I was not invited back into the room at any point after that.

While we were outside waiting for the committee to discuss, Seth Hyman was visibly shaking, and he called me an “asshole.” When I asked him why he would say that he just walked away from me and said he did not want to talk to me.

After a few moments, I heard laughter and applause from inside the now closed-door meeting. The doors were then opened, and Mr. Hyman went inside. I was not invited back in, but the doors were open, and people were starting to leave, so I went in to see what was going on.

I had to ask Ms. Huntley what was going on, and she said it was over. Looking around, the senior citizens now could not look me in the eye. They appeared ashamed or embarrassed.

I immediately asked (looking at the younger influencing members) if they improperly influenced the senior members in the room.

Ms. Huntley told me that they have parliamentary procedure, and that the decision was made.

Ms. Huntley did not allow my question (on whether the seniors were improperly influenced) to be answered.

She stated that Seth Hyman was the endorsed candidate. Right then the crowd was riled up by a young man who I did not recognize, but when the other young people (and then some of the senior citizens) followed his lead, I singled him out, asking for his name. He just stood there smiling behind Attorney Joshua Grosshans, who was also smiling/smirking at me. I later learned the young man standing behind Mr. Grosshans was Mr. Austin Arthur, who is running for Orange County Commissioner.

Ms. Huntley adjourned the meeting, and I went to shake Mr. Hyman’s hand, which he refused in front of everyone. As I attempted to leave, the younger audience members laughed at me, stood in my way, bumped into me, and called me an asshole.

Attorney Mike Sasso was the only one who I noticed appeared concerned and not happy/celebrating.

What rationale could there possibly be for the Orange GOP to endorse a candidate for State Attorney (Seth Hyman) who was fired by that same office for committing one of the worst acts a prosecutor can commit – hiding exculpatory information and “compromising justice to gain an advantage in a case?” *See Attachment 1.*

In my letter to the RPOF, I asked if it was because I am not a member of the Orange GOP? I am a Republican who was invited to what I was told would be a fair look for that organization’s endorsement. But, in my opinion, the Orange GOP made a mockery of the RPOF’s Mission, values and rules. What is more important to them? That the endorsed candidate be the most qualified and respected person; or that the endorsed candidate be a “team player” and member of the Orange GOP?

Whatever is going on behind closed doors is making headlines and the legal community (including every lawyer and judge I speak with on the matter) is questioning the ethics and integrity of the actions of these (and other) attorney members of The Florida Bar. *See Attachment 3 and 4.*

Several reliable lawyers and sources have told me that the plan for the Republican Party is to give Seth Hyman enough support to defeat me in the primary. At which time, Seth Hyman will drop out of the race, giving the governor what he wants: the field to be clear of any Republican, giving Andrew Bain the best chances of winning – or coming in second. The governor and these attorneys will try to have Monique Worrell (the Democratic Candidate) legally disqualified, removing her from the ballot. If they succeed, Andrew Bain will remain State Attorney, with no opposition. If that fails, they need Bain to come in second, so the governor can remove Ms. Worrell again and appoint the runner up. But that would only be possible if Bain comes in second in the general election – something that is far less likely if there is ANY Republican on the ballot.

Based on all the facts, it appears these attorneys are coordinating in fraudulent activity aimed at manipulating the outcome of the 2024 election for State Attorney.

To add to that, there are three (3) new judicial vacancies for judges in the Ninth Circuit, although only two have been called up by the Judicial Nominating Commission. Is one of these jobs being held for either Seth Hyman or Andrew Bain because they are “team players?”

These acts of gamesmanship and pushing political agendas on the legal system (including what is supposed to be a separate and independent branch of our government – the judiciary) are reflecting very badly on all lawyers and hurts the public trust in us. We are supposed to be a country that is based on the rule of law.

I am the point of contact for this letter, and I can be reached at (407) 257-2215 or electtomfighter@gmail.com.

Very respectfully,

Thomas Feiter

Thomas Feiter (“Fighter”), B.C.S.
Attorney and Counselor at Law

Attachment 1



STATE ATTORNEY
ANDREW A. BAIN
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

If the requested records contain any of the following confidential and/or exempt information, it has been redacted or withheld pursuant to applicable law.

- Active Criminal Investigative/Intelligence Information and/or Substance of Confessions, if applicable - F.S. 119.071(2)(c)1/F.S.119.071(2)(e)
- Attorney work product - F.S.119.071(1)(d)
- Autopsy photographs, audio recordings, and video recordings - F.S.406.135(2)
- Bank account, debit and credit card numbers - F.S.119.071(5)(b)
- Body Camera Recordings - F.S.119.071(2)(l)
- CPT reports - F.S.39.202(6) and/or DCF reports - F.S.39.202(1) and 415.107(11) and/or reporter information - F.S.39.202(5)
- Department of Motor Vehicle Information - F.S.119.0712(2)(b), F.S. 322.142(4) and/or SSN - F.S.119.071(5)(a) - FCIC/NCIC records 943.053(2) - F.S. 943.053(3)
- Fingerprint records - F.S.119.071(5)(g)
- Pre-Sentence Investigation - F.S. 945.10
- Form 52 (Clinical Record) - F.S.394.4615(1) and/or medical information - F.S.119.07(1) and/or EMS Records - F.S.401.30(4) and/or Forensic behavioral health evaluations - F.S. 916.1065
- Homicide Witness - F.S.119.071(2)(m)
- Identifying Information of Confidential Informants - F.S. 119.017(2)(f) & undercover personnel - F.S. 119.071(4)(c) and Law Enforcement techniques and/or procedures - F.S.119.071(2)(d)
- Identifying Information of Victims of Sexual Offenses and/or Child Abuse - F.S.119.071(2)(h); F.S.794.024
- Items sealed by Order of the Court
- Juvenile Information obtained under Chapter 985 - F.S.985.04(1)(a)
- Surveillance/Security camera footage - F.S.119.071(3)(a)
- Telecommunications records - F.S.119.071(5)(d)
- Victim Confidentiality Request is on file - F.S.119.071(2)(j)1 and/or Marsey's Law Art.I, § 16(b), Fla. Const.
- Other: FS 119.071(4)(d)2.f.

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY
SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

Employee Name: **Seth Hyman**

Position **ASA**

Division: **Felony**

Hire Date: **10/20/2014**

Date Termination Recommendation Submitted: **10/30/2014**

Submitted By: **Deborah Barra** Title: **Chief Assistant State Attorney**

AUTHORIZATION

Termination recommendation **ACCEPTED**: **Yes**

Rehire Eligibility: _____ yes X no

Termination recommendation **REJECTED**: _____

Has the employee made a report or filed a complaint of harassment or discrimination during his/her employment? _____ yes X no

Has the employee been a witness to or been involved in any investigation of harassment or discrimination while employed? _____ yes X no

Does the employee currently have a Worker's Compensation claim or under FMLA status? _____ yes X no

Has the employee filed a complaint or report of retaliation in the prior 12 months of his/her employment? _____ yes X no



Agency Head Signature

Printed Name: **Aramis D. Ayala**

Title: **State Attorney**

Date: **10/30/2017**

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: File
FROM: Deborah Barra
SUBJECT: Investigative Findings: Seth Hyman
DATE: October 30, 2017
CC: None

On October 16, 2017 it was brought to my attention that defense attorney Keith Robertson filed a motion entitled, "Motion to Dismiss for Brady, Richardson and Youngblood Violations, a Violation of Procedural Due Process and Prosecutorial Misconduct or, In the Alternative, Motion for Sanctions". Mr. Hyman was the assigned prosecutor to the case and it was his conduct that was being called into question. The motion contained an allegation that ASA Hyman did not turn over exculpatory evidence. Specifically, the motion stated Mr. Hyman obtained exculpatory evidence from a witness on August 2, 2017 and did not turn over the exculpatory evidence until September 26, 2017. It further alleged that Mr. Hyman turned the information over to defense only after the defense attorney specifically questioned Mr. Hyman about the content of his conversation with the witness. The defense attorney attached emails between himself and Mr. Hyman that outlined the dates and times and supported the allegations.

I met with Mr. Hyman on October 17, 2017 to discuss the motion and his conduct. General Counsel Kamilah Perry and Human Resources Director Tamra Crane were also present during the meeting.

Mr. Hyman began the meeting by stating the evidence was not exculpatory. We had a lengthy conversation which resulted in him later reluctantly acknowledging that it was exculpatory and he should have turned it over to the defense in hindsight. We next discussed the case and the motion to dismiss. I explained I had reviewed the discovery in the case and I did not believe he could prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Hyman indicated he had "struggled" with the case in terms of an appropriate offer. We then discussed the specific facts and evidence in the case. Mr. Hyman thought he could prove the case because he believed, "the defense wouldn't be able to get their witnesses to court." I instructed him that this is not something we consider and I reiterated the oath that every prosecutor takes when filing charges.

Ultimately, I told him my concerns regarding his behavior and that he would be suspended effective immediately. I also told him I would be handling the motion hearing that was scheduled for later that day and I would be dropping this case. He indicated he understood the reasons why.

At approximately 4:00 pm I, along with ASA Wixtrom, appeared in court in front of Judge Traver to handle the motion to dismiss. I dropped the case at that time. Judge Traver indicated he had concerns regarding the conduct of Mr. Hyman and stated he was referring him to the local Professionalism Panel.

I also received a call from Ms. Melissa Vickers who stated the Public Defender's Office was also referring Mr. Hyman to the Professionalism Panel.

After a review of recent cases, it appears Mr. Hyman has a pattern of behavior that is in conflict with the mission and ethical standards of this office.

Under the prior administration, in 2016, Mr. Hyman received a DUI case where the defendant blew under the legal limit. Mr. Hyman intentionally didn't list any breath witnesses on his witness list (in violation of the rules of criminal procedure) and then did a motion to exclude any mention of the breath test. His motion was granted and the defendant was found guilty of DUI. Per his evaluation, Mr. Hyman was previously counseled on the importance of getting the "just" result and was told he needed to make sure "the message he communicates is one seeking justice and not one who is trying to win a game."

After his evaluation, and despite being counseled, Mr. Hyman attempted another potentially unethical motion. On September 28, 2017, Mr. Hyman made a motion to exclude the body camera footage from his victim (who is a police officer). The factual reason why Mr. Hyman wanted the footage excluded is because the footage did not show the defendant kick or strike the victim (which pertains to the charge). Per a review of the audio of the hearing, Mr. Hyman's reasoning for the excluding of the footage was ultimately because the footage was more prejudicial than probative. In the interest of justice, it is concerning that Mr. Hyman would attempt to prevent jurors from seeing a video of the actual incident from the perspective of the listed victim.

As of today, I have been made aware of three separate incidents where I believe Mr. Hyman has compromised or attempted to compromise justice in order to gain an advantage in a case. Mr. Hyman has been previously counseled on this issue and continues to make poor judgement decisions when it comes to the just prosecution of his cases. His conduct is not in line with the philosophy of the State Attorney or this administration. Prosecutors have a tremendous amount of power and we need to have confidence that each assistant state attorney is here to seek justice. Unfortunately, based upon the questionable judgement he has exhibited within the three years of employment with this office, I do not feel he can remain as an assistant state attorney.



Aramis Ayala
State Attorney
9th Judicial Circuit of Florida
415 North Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
(407) 836-2400

To: Seth Hyman, Assistant State Attorney
From: Tamra Crane, Human Resource Director
Re: Termination of Employment with this Agency 10/31/2017

Please review all portions of this memorandum as soon as possible. If after thoroughly reviewing you have questions, please contact Human Resources at (407) 836-1369.

Final Salary Payments

- 1. Our records indicate that your last day on the State Attorney, 9th Circuit's payroll is 10/18/2017, however last day with this agency is 10/31/2017.
2. Final salary and/or leave payments will be direct deposited, unless you submit a cancellation request.
3. We estimate that on 10/31/2017 you will receive pay for 96 of the 176 working hours in your last month due to suspension on 10/18/2017.
4. You are not eligible to receive vacation and/or sick leave compensation.
5. Failure to return all property issued during your tenure or to pay applicable replacement costs may delay processing of supplemental salary payments.

Health Insurance Coverage

1. Our records indicate that you are:

You are currently enrolled in the State of Florida Benefits. Coverage ends at midnight **November 30, 2017**. →
If you currently pay a portion of the premiums, a deduction will be made from your final regular salary payment. If you are currently enrolled under the spouse program and are not transferring to another state agency, your spouse must sign the forms to switch to regular family coverage. IRS guidelines require that the signed forms are in the Tallahassee DSGI office by the 30th day after the event.

2. Usually within 2 - 4 weeks after your termination date, you will receive at your home address a COBRA information packet. Under the law you may elect to maintain your health insurance coverage as outlined in the COBRA documents. If you do not receive the documents contact People First at 1 (866) 663- 4735.

Other Insurance Coverage

3. If you are interested in maintaining coverage, contact the respective companies' customer service office.

Reimbursement Accounts

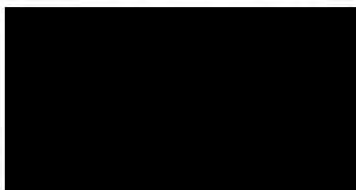
4. If you are currently participating in the medical or dependent care reimbursement accounts, please complete a termination of employment form. The form can be found at <http://www.myflorida.com/mybenefits/Health/Health.htm>.

Reason for Separation from Employment

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Career Advancement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dissatisfaction with Pay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certification Expired | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dissatisfaction with Work Required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Did not state reason | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dissatisfaction with Working Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Personal Family School | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Resignation | | Dissatisfaction with Advancement Opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Retirement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abandonment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Layoff | <input type="checkbox"/> | Death of Employee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dismissal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Death in Line of Duty |

Mailing Address & Phone Number

Unless otherwise indicated below, final salary payment, any supplemental payments and the W2 will be sent to:



The home phone number on file is:

Other instructions: _____

Correct Mailing Address: _____

Correct Home and/or Cell Phone Number(s): _____

New Employer _____

New Work Phone Number () _____

Signature Seth Tatum

Date 10/31/17

	<u>Administrative Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Orange County - Id YES <i>Replacement Fee \$10 - Orange County Government</i>	<i>Janna Wolfe</i>	<i>10/31/17</i>
2. Osceola County Id/Access Card	_____	_____
3. State Attorney Id Card (<i>ASAs & Investigators only</i>)	_____	_____
4. Orlando Parking card <i>Replacement Fee \$10 - City of Orlando</i>	<i>Janna Wolfe</i>	_____
5. Key(s)	<i>Janna Wolfe</i>	_____
6. Law Books <i>Make checks payable to State of Florida</i> <u>Attorneys</u> - Florida Statutes, Criminal Laws & Rules	_____	_____
7. Surface Pro Computer	<i>Janna Wolfe</i>	_____
8. Bar Dues (<i>ASAs only</i>) <i>\$176.67 due CNS payable to the State of Florida</i>	_____	_____



Attachment 2



Orange GOP

Orange County Republican Executive Committee
4853 S. Orange Avenue Suite C
Orlando FL 32806

June 14, 2024

Thomas "Fighter" Feiter
120 East Robinson Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Dear Thomas:

As Chair of the Orange County Republican Executive Committee, I am calling a special meeting of the for the purpose of endorsing Seth Hyman in the Republican primary for State Attorney in the 9th Judicial Circuit-Orange & Osceola.

The special meeting will be held on Thursday June 27th at the Ventura Country Club. (3201 Woodgate Blvd, Orlando, FL 32822). The meeting starts at 7:30pm.

The Republican Party of Florida (RPOF) Rules Of Procedure (As revised by the State Executive Board on May 4, 2024) states:

Rule 8 – Endorsements

B. County Executive Committee may endorse, certify, screen, or recommend a Republican candidate in a contested Republican primary, or a registered Republican in a nonpartisan election (including judicial races where it is legally permissible), or a local Unitary Special/General Election, by either of the two following methods: (1) Upon the affirmative vote of not less than 60% of the County Executive Committee present and voting at a duly called meeting complying with notice requirements set forth below, provided that the number voting to endorse represents a majority of the full committee, or (2) upon the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting at such meeting, provided that a quorum is present at the time the vote is taken. Each announced candidate shall be likewise notified that a vote on endorsement is to be taken and that he or she will be allowed to speak at such meeting in support of or opposition to any proposed endorsement, certification, or recommendation for an office for which he or she is a candidate.

Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes.
Members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates.
Members can then conduct a vote for an endorsement.

Please consider this letter and a copy sent through email as ten days advance notice of the Special Meeting of the Orange County Republican Executive Committee on June 27, 2024 starting at 7:30PM ET. The meeting will be held at the Ventura Country Club. (3201 Woodgate Blvd, Orlando, FL 32822).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

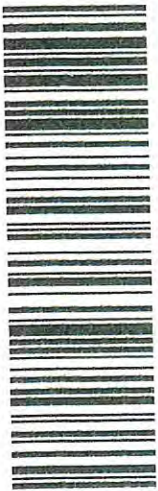
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Huntley".

Erin Huntley
Chair

Orange County FL
4853 S Orange Ave Ste C
Orlando FL 32806



CERTIFIED MAIL®



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Thomas Feiter
120 E. Robinson St
Orlando FL 32801

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Campaign to Elect Seth Hyman, State Attorney Orange/Osceola Counties, FL

Yesterday at 8:18 AM · 🌐

I'm extremely happy to announce that I have been endorsed by the [Orange GOP](#) ! Thank you to all of the members of the [#orangecountyfl](#) [#republicanparty](#) for your unanimous vote and 100% support. Let's win this primary big! VOTE for Seth Hyman this August 5-20!

[#stateattorney](#) [#prosecutor](#) [#lawenforcenent](#) FOP Lodge 93 Fraternal Order of Police Orlando Lodge #25, Inc. Orange County Sheriff's Office Republican Party of Florida Central Florida Young Republicans Florida Young Republicans [#sethhyman2024](#) [#repelworrell](#)

ORANGE
GOP

Endorses

Republican Primary August 20th, 2024



Seth Hyman
for State Attorney

Orange & Osceola County, 9th Judicial Circuit

www.electsethhyman2024.com

Attachment 3

OPINION > OPINION COLUMNISTS

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

Know someone doing good things? Nominate them to be honored | Commentary



The 2022 list of “10 People Who Make Orlando a Better Place to Live” (clockwise from top left): Brendan O’Connor, editor Bungalower.com; Dennis Pape, tech industry promoter and CEO of Seedfunders Orlando; Cameron Gomes, CEO of the Central Florida Dreamplex; Officer Maya Tolentino with the UCF Police Department; Steve Goldman, founder of the Winter Park Land Trust; Shawn Welcome, Orlando poet laureate; Gabriel Preisser, Opera Orlando general director; Barbara Chandler, Hannibal Square Heritage Center manager and (center) Katie Gill Warner, Audubon’s Center for Birds of Prey director; and Ryan Bozeman and Mark Thompson, co-founders of the Picnic Project



By **SCOTT MAXWELL** | smaxwell@orlandosentinel.com | Orlando Sentinel

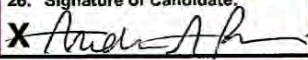
PUBLISHED: June 26, 2024 at 2:51 p.m. | UPDATED: June 26, 2024 at 9:25 p.m.



One of the weirder things about this year’s race for lead prosecutor in Orange and Osceola counties was highlighted in a recent [Sentinel story](#) that noted State Attorney Andrew Bain filed paperwork two days apart saying he was running as both a Republican and as a non-party-affiliated candidate.

Well, he can’t be both. Nor can he run as a member of a party to which he doesn’t belong. So which form – both of which Bain signed “under penalties of perjury” – was accurate?

Bain says the second one; that he’s an NPA who made a mistake when he signed the first sworn statement saying he was running as a Republican. One of his advisors, who said his firm works primarily for Republicans, tried to take the blame, saying he errantly filled out the form. But it’s Bain’s signature and candidacy that are on the line.

7. Office Sought (include district, circuit, group, or seat #): State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit		8. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check the box if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> I intend to run as a Write-In Candidate.	
9. If a candidate for partisan office, check the box and fill in the name of the party as applicable: I intend to run as a <input type="checkbox"/> Write-In Candidate. <input type="checkbox"/> No Party Affiliation Candidate. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Republican Party candidate.			
10. I have appointed the following person to act as my: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campaign Treasurer <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Treasurer			
11. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer: Debbie Millner		12. Telephone:	13. Email Address:
14. Mailing Address:		15. City: Jensen Beach	16. State: Florida
		17. Zip Code: 34957	
18. I have designated the following bank as my (check appropriate box): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Depository <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Depository			
19. Name of Bank: PNC Bank, NA		20. Address: 1021 NE Jensen Beach Blvd	
21. City: Jensen Beach		22. County: Martin	23. State: Florida
		24. Zip Code: 34957	
UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING FORM FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF THE CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.			
25. Date: 4/01/2024		26. Signature of Candidate: 	

On April 1, State Attorney Andrew Bain filed this form with state elections officials that said “under penalties of perjury” he was running for office as a Republican. But he wasn’t a Republican. Two days later, he submitted a form saying he was running as an NPA. (State Division of Elections.)

Do I think this is Watergate? Nope. Or a slam-dunk case for prosecuting? No again. Bain corrected the mistake quickly. And elections law attorney J.C. Planas, a former legislator, said errors like these are frequently made and rarely prosecuted. Planas also said perjury cases are tough to make because prosecutors must prove the error was intentional. (As a side note: That’s a beef I’ve long had with political crimes. When petty thieves are prosecuted, we don’t require prosecutors to prove the thieves *intended* to do wrong, only that they did so.)

Bain could also theoretically argue the form he signed didn’t claim that he was a Republican, only that he intended to run as one. (Though that explanation wouldn’t really make sense, since you have to be a member of a party to seek office as one.)

Still, these conflicting, sworn forms will be fair game for both Democrat Monique Worrell and the two real Republicans running against Bain. They not only raise questions about Bain’s political allegiances but also suggest a sloppy mistake (at best) for a guy whose job is forcing others to follow the letter of the law – and whose predecessor was ousted by Gov. Ron DeSantis for supposedly not

Finally, speaking of properly signed forms, the [Sentinel also reported](#) this week that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement confirmed it has an active investigation involving state Rep. Carolina Amesty and her family's small nonprofit school, Central Christian University.

This news comes on the heels of the [Sentinel reporting](#) that Amesty had notarized a form where a veteran educator supposedly said he'd worked at the university — only to have that same educator tell the Sentinel he'd never done so nor signed a form saying he did. Three handwriting experts also told the Sentinel that the signature didn't appear to be authentic.

One thought on this investigation: It's about darn time.

Maybe Amesty will be totally vindicated. (A spokesman for the freshman Republican from Orlando called the accusation "patently absurd.") But this state too often turns a blind eye to public officials who do questionable things.

Hopefully here, the FDLE will make a determination sooner than later — like before Election Day — for the sake of everyone involved, including voters.

smaxwell@orlandosentinel.com

Attachment 4

NEWS > POLITICS > ELECTION

'Partisan politics should have no role': State Attorney Bain touts independence, but DeSantis looms large



State Attorney Andrew Bain is running as a no-party candidate, campaigning that he will leave politics out of the courthouse. (Willie J. Allen Jr./Orlando Sentinel)



By **SKYLER SWISHER** | sswisher@orlandosentinel.com | Orlando Sentinel
June 23, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Orange-Osceola State Attorney Andrew Bain is drawing fire for a political evolution that took him from a registered Democrat to an appointee of Gov. Ron DeSantis — and now has him running as an independent for the job of Central Florida's top prosecutor.

Five years ago, Bain was a registered Democrat, voter records show, but he switched to no-party affiliation in 2019.

When he kicked off his campaign earlier this year, he signed paperwork that he intended to run as a Republican. He said that was an oversight he quickly corrected. He'll appear on the ballot as NPA, meaning an independent without party affiliation and not aligned with either Republicans or Democrats.

Bain said his background demonstrates he is independent-minded and will leave partisanship out of the courthouse.

But his opponents are painting Bain as a puppet without firm convictions who is beholden to DeSantis, the Republican who catapulted him to his post.

Complicating Bain's situation is that blue-leaning Orange and Osceola counties are a tough place for a Republican to run. Given his background and his support network, NPA might be the only designation that makes him a viable candidate in some of the state's most Democratic friendly turf.

For Bain, though, it all raises a question that will likely define his candidacy: Who is Andrew Bain really, and what does he believe?

DeSantis [suspended Democratic State Attorney Monique Worrell](#) in August and replaced her with Bain. That move made national headlines and prompted an outcry from Democrats, who said the Republican governor was usurping the will of the voters.

Worrell is now running to get her job back. Two Republicans are also vying for the position, leaving Bain in the odd position of being viewed as the GOP governor's candidate but appearing on the ballot without party affiliation.

Thomas Feiter, one of the GOP candidates, said some in his own party are trying to push him aside to make way for Bain.

"I think Andrew Bain's core beliefs are whatever Gov. DeSantis tells them they should be," said Feiter, a lawyer and founder of the firm Fighter Law.

Feiter, too, was once a Democrat, switching to Republican in 2017, voter records show.

Worrell, meanwhile, said Bain's no-party label can't mask his allegiance to DeSantis. She also highlighted his membership in the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group that played an instrumental role in [undoing the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling](#) protecting abortion rights.

"He was appointed to take my seat undemocratically by an authoritarian, dictatorial Republican governor," she said.

DeSantis accused the elected Democrat of breaching her duty and not following the law, charges

"Partisan politics should have no role in the State Attorney's office," Bain said in an email. "I am registered NPA because the law should be independent of party politics."

Paperwork error

Bain's candidacy kicked off with a paperwork issue that had to be quickly corrected. He signed two one-page forms on April 1 "under penalties of perjury" with boxes checked that he intended to run as a Republican.

The forms dealt with the appointment of a campaign treasurer. Michael Millner, a political accountant, said the fault lies with his firm, the Political Accounting Group, which prepared the form and mostly works with GOP candidates.

"He was never Republican," Millner said. "We just defaulted to that not thinking, and we were wrong."

Voter records show that Bain switched his registration from Democrat to no-party affiliation in April 2019. The Orange County elections office had no record of him ever being a registered Republican.

Bain said he corrected the mistake on his candidacy paperwork quickly.

"I signed the documents without noticing that the party information was incorrect," he said. "As soon as the error came to light it was corrected within 24 hours. It was a human error, nothing more."

A spokesman with the Florida Division of Elections did not respond to a request for a comment on the mix-up. On April 5, a state elections official wrote a letter to Bain acknowledging he was being switched from a Republican candidate to an NPA one.

Florida law requires no-party candidates to not be a member of any political party for the 365 days before the beginning of the election qualifying period. Voting records indicate Bain met that requirement.

Feiter said while mistakes happen, the paperwork snafu raised questions. He took the document seriously, he said, because it included bold text that required signers to affirm they had read the form and the information was true "under penalties of perjury."

"At a bare minimum, it shows carelessness on his behalf," he said.

Seth Hyman, the other Republican in the race, said he decided to run for state attorney in January 2023, months before Worrell's suspension. If he secures the nomination, he said he is committed to running in the general election because he thinks a Republican should be on the ballot.

Bain says he's voted for both parties

Bain, 39, said he decided to switch from a Democrat to no-party affiliation in 2018 when he was working as an assistant state attorney under Aramis Ayala's leadership because he didn't like some of her choices in running the office. Ayala, a Democrat who served from 2017 until 2021, [stoked controversy](#) with some of her stances, including a decision to not pursue the death penalty for any cases handled by her office.

In 2020, DeSantis boosted Bain's legal career when he appointed him to serve as a county judge. Bain subsequently won a nonpartisan election in 2022 to stay on the county bench.

In the meantime, DeSantis took aim at what he called "woke" prosecutors, making it one of his core "law and order" issues during his unsuccessful presidential bid. In August 2022, he suspended Hillsborough County State Attorney Andrew Warren.

A year later, it was Central Florida's turn. DeSantis ousted Worrell and installed Bain in the position.

Campaigning as a no-party candidate is likely to help Bain's prospects in this region, but he'll have his work cut out for him in a year that will be dominated by the presidential race at the top of the ballot, said Aubrey Jewett, a political science professor at the University of Central Florida.

"There is a pretty small percentage of Republicans in Orange these days," he said. "Democrats have a big advantage."

Voters are often unfamiliar with local races and candidates, Jewett added, "so party labels can be more important."

Worrell won election in 2020 with nearly 66% of the vote.

Earlier this month, DeSantis suggested his newly created political action committee, [the Florida Freedom Fund](#), would play a role in Orlando's state attorney race, although he did not provide specifics.

Despite his DeSantis ties, Bain said he isn't a fierce partisan.

"I have voted for candidates in both political parties, and will continue to vote for the person I believe is best for each elected office," he said.