

BAILIWICK NEWS UNDERGROUND

Political Satire, Allegory and Parody for Centre County Citizens

Nov. 22, 2017

Press Release by Macy Starks Pillar, Chief Prosecutor of the Kingdom of Mount Shitney
(Parody of a Recent Press Release by Stacy Parks Miller, Centre County District Attorney)

On Tuesday, November 21, Chief Prosecutor-Elect Bernard Cantorna announced his referral of the Tim Piazza fraternity hazing case to the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office.

I am astonished that Cantorna has publicly provided some much-needed clarity about how this controversial, high-profile case will be handled during a crucial transitional period in the Mount Shitney Chief Prosecutor's Office.

Obviously, I find it impossible to believe that any legitimate, well-intentioned voter could have looked at my record while in office and cast a vote for my opponent, knowing it would prevent me from continuing my political career obstruction-free. I find it impossible to believe that the election is over, and I lost overwhelmingly.

I am quite certain that my sense of entitlement to hold elective office is real and not manufactured, and I see no need to evaluate the legitimacy of that entitlement or use a pretext to hide it.

I owe the truth to the people of Mount Shitney. And there can be no shame in my admissions, since I am not capable of feeling shame.

I supervise a team of talented assistant district attorneys who are intimately familiar with thousands of pages of evidence. I have tried to insulate myself from the consequences of my actions, and have largely succeeded.

But still, I have spent countless sleepless hours wondering how the voters can have been so stupid as to vote me out of office, given the unquestionable advantages of having Chief Prosecutor who has so cowed the county and state judiciary that judges shrink at the mere thought of holding me accountable for my contempt for legal and professional ethical standards.

I am disappointed that voters are apparently disappointed in the county and state judges who have been unwilling to make the tough choices and take the tough cases and fight hard to protect the integrity of the Pennsylvania criminal justice system from those who, like me, seek to subvert it.

If I had any respect for the office of Chief Prosecutor as a public servant, as distinct from my personal career, I would be bending over backwards to support my successor during this transition.

Clearly, I do not. Have any respect for the public office, that is.

Then again, if I had any respect for the office, I would have resigned in January 2015 when credible, probable-cause-supported forgery allegations against me – allegations and evidence that have still not been presented in an adversarial process before an impartial, public trier of fact, by the way – originally came out. Obviously, I did not.

If I had any respect for the ideal of a fair and impartial justice system, however difficult it may be to fulfill in practice, I'd maintain dignified silence about ongoing prosecutions and defendants. Clearly, I do not. Instead, I eagerly seize every opportunity to hyperbolically and publicly smear defendants and defense counsel.

If I had any respect for the competency of the Attorney General's office, and any respect for my own work and the work of my assistant prosecutors and the police investigators who have painstakingly built cases against some of those involved in the hazing death of Tim Piazza, I would give full-throated endorsement to whatever steps my successor believes are necessary to ensure the successful completion of the case.

If I had any respect for the grieving Piazza family, and the many grieving parents of other hazing victims all over the country, and the young people continually harmed by the intractable alcoholic culture at Penn State, modeled by no-less august personages than our own Immediate-Past President Judge, I would not be using these circumstances to savage the reputation of the next chief prosecutor who will be taking his oath of office in a few short weeks to confront the same difficult challenges.

I am disappointed that others have noticed, but wholly unsurprised that I'm incapable of seeing current events as about anything other than myself. Obviously, there is nothing more at stake here than my political career, and I will continue to do everything in my power to promote myself and evade accountability for my lack of sound judgment and contempt for ethical and legal principles, in or out of this office.

It is critical that I step back and get out of Cantorna's way as he undertakes the yeoman's task of rebuilding the credibility of the courts in the Kingdom of Mount Shitney – credibility that I've aggravatingly assaulted and recklessly endangered. But I fear I am off to a bad start.