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RE: Complaint Against District Attorney Jackie Lacey for Misuse of Government Resources

Dear Mr. Yochelson:

As demonstrated in the videos hyperlinked herein, District Attorney Jackie Lacey has repeatedly misused government resources in order to aid her campaign. [California Government Code § 8314](#) explicitly prohibits elected officials from using public resources for campaign activities, and [California Elections Code § 18304](#) prohibits individuals from using the seal of a county or agency in campaign communications. Notably, the use of public resources including land, equipment, or supplies is illegal, and as demonstrated in the hyperlinked videos below, District Attorney Jackie Lacey, a candidate for public office, has repeatedly, improperly and illegally campaigned either from a government office or with the use of taxpayer funded equipment at home. Additionally, her use of an official county seal in her campaign appearances gives the impression of an official action or the validation of approval and support by the County. That has the affect of undermining the integrity of this very important election.

The first of three such incidents that we are aware of occurred on July 14<sup>th</sup> when District Attorney Jackie Lacey [appeared on Fox News 11](#) to announce “a new attack ad” against her opponent, George Gascón. During the appearance DA Lacey appears to be announcing the attack ad from the District Attorney's Office in front of the official LA County seal and begins the segment by saying, “as we investigate George Gascón's record, not just when he was in San Francisco but when he was a police officer with LAPD for 30 years, we found some troubling things.” That the chief law enforcement official in the county is engaging in a blatant political attack that references “investigations” into her political opponent from a public building with the validation of a taxpayer funded law enforcement seal behind her is extremely problematic, let alone illegal, and it implies an official investigation

rather than political pontification.



A second violation [occurred](#) as DA Lacey solicited the endorsement of a political organization, the Westchester Playa Democratic Club, on July 30. This time, in seeking their endorsement she discussed the office and her record, once again appearing from a government building with the validation of the official LA County seal visible behind her, professing in part, “There’s still a lot more work to do and I just believe I’m the chosen one to do it... In terms of qualifications, this is no contest.” Soliciting an endorsement is clear political activity, and the District Attorney is illegally using taxpayer resources and the official seal to validate her candidacy.



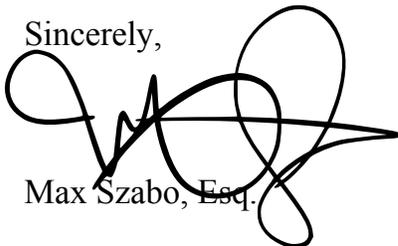
A third incident occurred during a [campaign event](#) promoted on her [campaign Instagram account](#). Once again, the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for Los Angeles county, the official responsible for enforcing the laws in question, is illegally using government resources as she discusses her opposition to Propositions 47 and the legalization of marijuana, and appears in front of the official LA county seal as she engages in political activity.

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All three instances are blatantly illegal, and in light of recent events—including Donald Trump’s politicization of the United States Department of Justice to investigate Hillary Clinton—the import of these laws is more evident than ever. Ultimately, this is not a race for dog catcher, this is a race for District Attorney, and Jackie Lacey cannot claim ignorance of the laws she has taken an oath to enforce. Importantly, these are the only violations that were aired publicly, either on television or livestreamed over the internet, raising major questions as to the number of violations and the frequency with which the elected District Attorney is illegally propping up her political campaign with public resources.

In conclusion, we demand an immediate investigation into this matter. Notably, due to the clear conflict associated with investigating your superior, however, we demand that you refer this matter to the California Attorney General’s Office so these blatant violations can be objectively investigated.

Sincerely,  


Max Szabo, Esq.  
CC: Xavier Becerra  
Attorney General of California