

# Kane’s lawyer: Leaks in case would taint jury

By MARGARET GIBBONS  
STAFF WRITER

The lawyer for embattled Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane on Friday called for an investigation into leaks in his client’s case.

Kane herself is waiting for trial on criminal charges filed against her by the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office for allegedly leaking secret grand jury information and then lying about and trying to cover up her alleged involvement in those leaks.

“An elected official is being railroaded out of office and forced to defend herself before a jury pool that has been intentionally and irrevocably tainted,” defense attorney Gerald L. Shargel claimed in a written statement issued early Friday evening. “This is absolutely and fundamentally wrong. It should not be allowed to stand.”

Specifically, Shargel cited leaks several weeks ago of a sealed petition filed by the state Office of Disciplinary Council recommending the revocation of Kane’s law license.

That petition, filed with the state Supreme Court, reportedly claims that the criminal charges against the state’s top law enforcement officer, which include perjury, false swearing, obstruction of the administration of the law and oppression, will prejudice and taint cases Kane’s office is pursuing and “result in substantial public harm.”

The most recent alleged leaks occurred Thursday when county detectives

served a search warrant at Kane’s office in Harrisburg, Shargel said. That warrant, according to published reports, reportedly involved an oath Kane signed in which she swore to keep all state grand jury information confidential.

Although that warrant allegedly was sealed, Shargel claimed, there were reporters who were in the Attorney General’s lobby waiting for the warrant to be executed and who immediately knew the substance of those warrants.

These leaks in Kane’s own case highlight the “utter hypocrisy” of the investigation of his client, Shargel said.

While publicly calling on “the courts” to immediately begin a full inquiry into the leaks in the Kane case, Shargel said he would be following up his public plea in a legal motion that will be filed “at the appropriate time.”

District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman denied her staff was the source of any leaks “but I have no control over others outside my office who may learn of our activities after we do our jobs.” Ferman emphasized her comments are not intended to confirm the reported search warrant or the alleged content reported by the news media.

“As I have said before, we will prosecute this case in the courts, not by press statements,” Ferman said. “The defense can say whatever it wants in their press statements.”

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# Partnering to spread suicide-prevention awareness

By ANTHONY DIMATTIA  
STAFF WRITER

A teenage college student sat in his apartment last month contemplating whether he should use the loaded gun in his hand to take his life.

A woman who fell on hard times after losing her job recently planned to end her life by slitting her wrists.

They both called the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Volunteers from Family Services Association of Bucks County receive similar calls daily through the lifeline, which is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The number is 1-800-273-TALK.

To spread the word about the hotline, the FSA has partnered with Bucks County Transport to post National Suicide Prevention Lifeline signs on BCT vehicles. The private, nonprofit transit agency provides more than 2,000 rides each day across Bucks County.

“The signs will be put on our buses and vans,” said Vince Volpe, of BCT. “They will be placed on the back of the vehicles and, when people are driving around, they’ll be able



WILLIAM JOHNSON / FOR THE COURIER TIMES  
Family Service Association of Bucks County and Bucks County Transport are partnering to post National Suicide Prevention Lifeline signs on 105 BCT vehicles that travel across the county.

to see the signs and if they know someone who needs assistance or help they’ll be able to tell them about this phone number.”

The idea mirrors a recent initiative by SEPTA, which expanded its suicide-prevention and awareness project into Bucks County by posting the hotline number on trains.

Two years ago, Bucks County commissioned a suicide task force that eventually branched into several committees, including one chaired by the FSA

called Family Survivors of Suicide, said county Commissioner Diane Marseglia, whose 16-year-old daughter, Becky, took her own life in 2005.

“We get together and we talk about differences that we think we could have made in our family’s lives to help them survive, and one thing has been to get this number out there,” Marseglia said. “This is a great way to get it out there.”

To pay for the signs, the county kicked in money from its civics fund,

Marseglia added. The hope is that the signs will increase caller volume, said Audrey J. Tucker, CEO of the FSA. On average, volunteers in Bucks County answer about 100 calls each month — including 98 in June, 108 in July and 76 in August, officials said.

“There are people that are in a crisis and they need help, they need to talk to someone,” Tucker said. “The message that ‘you matter’ seems to be making a difference.”

Calls between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. are handled by volunteers in Bucks, with calls on off hours answered by national volunteers, said Nicki Bedesem, FSA communications director.

“If someone calls 1-800-273-TALK it will always be answered,” she said.

The more the hotline number is seen, the more likely it will help someone in need, Marseglia said.

“The fact that once the number goes out they get more calls, (which) shows that people really need this and they are not afraid to call,” Marseglia said.

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## Man charged in lewdness case

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP — A Bensalem man was jailed Thursday on an open lewdness charge.

Sgt. Kevin Burns arrested Gerald Salamatin, 23, of Argyle Way, at 8:10 p.m. for an incident in the 100 block of Idlewild Road, acting Lt. Ralph Johnson said.

Salamatin was charged with open lewdness, disorderly conduct and loitering and prowling at night.

He was arraigned by District Judge Philip Daly and sent to Bucks County prison in lieu of 10 percent of \$50,000 bail.

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