

From: [REDACTED]
To: Paul.Sewell@kingcounty.gov, Patrick.Hinds@kingcounty.gov,
Cc: Darren.Thompson@kingcounty.gov,
Subject: Fwd: SPD referral 1 [REDACTED], Aaron Pelley
Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2020 10:49 am

Dear Paul and Patrick -

I appreciate Darren's candor in informing me that the case against Aaron Pelley ("Pelley") has failed to move forward due to the lack of Taint Team financial resources.

Given that, I think there is reason to immediately begin the prosecution against Pelley for first degree theft, embezzlement, money laundering, and computer crimes under 18 U.S. Code § 1030. Each of these charges are supported with evidence that does not requiring substantial prosecution resources including: pleadings, evidence, and testimony by Pelley in civil matters, bank records, firm accounting records, emails, all that not contain no client information or limited client information, are the property of the law firm of which I am the sole owner, and some that is already in the public record.

I can assist the King County Prosecutor's Economic Crimes Unit by providing the following information and evidence establishing that this currently practicing cannabis lawyer stole from \$400,000 to \$875,000 dollars, a small portion of which can be immediately prosecuted. I will be in Seattle August 11th through 17th, for the first time since the start of the pandemic started, and would like to come to the Economic Crimes Unit Office to pick up the entire case file so that I can prepare the evidence on this limited set of charges with any needed redactions.

To follow is some resource language that can be used to write the charging document, which updates the information available to Detective Nic Meyst and his supervisor, and narrows the scope. I return to Seattle September 1st through 9th, and will deliver the reduced evidence set and be available to confer on any gaps or specific needs.

I have been prosecuting this massive set of evidence for more than two years and understand it as a whole as well as the legal significance. Pelley is a classic white collar criminal, a criminal mind, he steals for the thrill of it, is charming, lies when he does not need to, and creates chaos to cover his devious behavior. He is using all these traits to further the crimes of his client base, marginally reformed criminals themselves. I call him the Ted Bundy of law partners.

I implore you to prosecute Pelley. His criminal conduct has been devastating to me, clients, the Washington State cannabis industry, and the reputation of lawyers. The Bar Associations, courts, and prosecutors necessarily hold lawyers up to a certain standard of conduct because they serve as trusted advisors to clients and the justice system. For this reason, accountability should be lower for the prosecution of attorneys, not higher. My friend Manny Medrano, the former federal lead prosecutor on the 1985 kidnapping, torture, and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena said in reply to my story, "When it comes to white collar criminals where there is smoke there is fire. I am so sorry this happened to you, this guy should not be practicing law." If Pelley was brazen enough to commit these crimes against me and my clients, he likely has done so in the past and likely will continue his misconduct in the future if your office does not intervene to put an end to it.

The WSBA so egregiously fumbled the investigation and prosecution of the grievance against Pelley, that the Office of Disciplinary Counsel's conduct and the dismissal of Pelley's violations of RPCs are now in deliberation by the Supreme Court. When all of this began, I notified in writing and had one-on-one conversations with Governor Inslee and Attorney General Ferguson about Pelley and other corrupt cannabis lawyers damaging the industry. Because of the keen public interest in cannabis, this self-aggrandizing lawyer and his conduct is about to become news (I am seeing to that), and I would like to help the King County Prosecutors to be on the winning side of stopping this criminal.

I look forward to hearing back from you about which of the following dates I may get the file. I am available Wednesday August 12th, Friday, August 14th or Monday August 17th.

Sincerely,

Anne van Leynseele

Domicile Address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Thompson, Darren <Darren.Thompson@kingcounty.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 3:02 PM

To: Anne van Leynseele <anne@7pointlaw.com>; Anne van Leynseele <avanleynseele@zuberlawler.com>

Cc: Sewell, Paul <Paul.Sewell@kingcounty.gov>; Hinds, Patrick <Patrick.Hinds@kingcounty.gov>

Subject: SPD referral [REDACTED], Aaron Pelley

Ms. van Leynseele,

I received your voicemail regarding the Aaron Pelley criminal referral that Seattle Police Department Detective Nic Meyst sent to the King County Prosecutor's Office; I am responding via email to give you an update:

The first update is that I am no longer a criminal prosecutor in the Economic Crimes Unit, so this case has been reassigned to Paul Sewell (cc'd here, along with Patrick Hinds, the Chair of the Economic Crimes Unit). As for the status of the case, it is still in the review stage. As you are aware, the documents you provided to SPD contain potential attorney/client privileged materials, and the boxes you dropped off at my office likely contain both attorney/client privileged materials, as well as documents that may be subject to your confidential arbitration proceedings. Therefore, these materials will need a first review by our Special Operations Unit or "taint team" before they can be reviewed for filing of criminal charges. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, staffing shortages, backlogs, and an overabundance of cases that require more immediate attention (violent crimes, gun crimes, etc.), this theft referral against Mr. Pelley has not yet been reviewed by either our Special Operations Unit or by myself or Paul.

Because I am no longer in the Economic Crimes Unit, I will leave further updates to Paul and Patrick; however, please note that Paul very recently received this case and has not yet had a chance to get up to speed on it.

Sincerely,
Darren Thompson