July 3, 2019

Congresswoman Lori Trahan 1616 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Trahan:

I am writing to tell you about corruption at the highest level of the state and federal government. I suspect that an elected official of Massachusetts was murdered to cover the corruption. If laws are not changed, other people will die. In addition, thousands of people were indirectly harmed in various ways because of the corruption.

I owned a small company that made special radios so that blind people could listen to the daily newspapers. There are services all over the country that provide this programming for the blind. Other engineers had tried to make these radios, but they did not work well. They were noisy with poor fidelity. So I worked hard and used all of my talent to make a superior product. They were, literally, the best radios ever made for this purpose. Although my radios were expensive, they were well worth the money and the listeners appreciated my efforts. It brought me so much satisfaction that my talents made a positive difference in people's lives.

We also made equipment for emergency alerting such as AMBER alerts. We even sold special radios to United States Army. My employees and I were proud of our company. Occasionally we were contacted by brokers who wanted to arrange the sale of my company to a large company, but I had no interest in giving up my work.

My problems started in September 2001 when a part supplier for my company failed to provide a mission-critical part within a just-in-time agreement. A replacement part would not be available for three months. A few days later, the 9/11 attack created chaos in the financial world. I used all of my credit to keep production going and worked around the missing part. I was unable to pay my quarterly withholding taxes.

As I tried to recover, I made payments to the IRS as often as I could. Fortunately, in 2002, I got a major design contract. I also sold my house to pay off my home equity loan. By February 2003, I had finished a major part of the contract and was expecting payment within weeks. The IRS agent assigned to my business demanded that I appear in her office to discuss the amount that I owed from 2001.

She berated me from the minute I walked into her office, calling me a liar, a tax cheat, and other derogatory terms. When I explained that I was catching up and would be able to pay the back taxes within a month, she said that I was lying. She demanded to know if I had any money in my account and I told her that I had money for that week's payroll. She demanded that I give the funds intended for my employees to the IRS. She told me

that I could go to any bank and get a loan to pay the taxes. She demanded the balance of money within two weeks.

I went to the bank and asked for a loan to cover two weeks, so that I could meet the deadline set by the agent. I could repay the loan when I was paid for the contract that had just been completed. Instead of a loan, the bank referred me to a "non-traditional lender" who might be able to help. The lender referred me to his lawyers.

I hired the lawyers for the sole purpose of negotiating with the IRS for another two weeks when I would be paid by my client. I signed a power-of-attorney to authorize the lawyers to contact the IRS on my behalf. I expected them to fulfill my request.

The next week, I received a payment of \$20,000 which was sufficient to pay the IRS in full. I notified the lawyers and asked them to contact the agent and advise that payment would be made within days. I thought that all was well and started negotiations of other contracts.

A few weeks later, the lawyers told me that the agent refused my payment because I had failed to meet her arbitrary deadline. They said that the IRS would seize my business the following morning. The lawyers told me that I could get protection from the bankruptcy court, but I had to sign the papers immediately, so that they could be filed before the court closed. The lawyers had no time to look at the company books or discuss bankruptcy with me. The only reason that I filed for bankruptcy was to prevent IRS seizure; it had nothing to do with the financial conditions of the company.

Once the company was in bankruptcy, I had to hire a member of the lawyer's staff to assist me in meeting the legal obligations of a "debtor in possession." I had to refrain from paying any bills and I had to close my checking accounts. The bankruptcy lawyer told me to make an inventory of company assets. In following his instructions, many assets were not included and those that were reported were grossly undervalued. I later learned that the lawyer falsely stated to the court that my company was insolvent and unable to pay its bills.

Shortly after filing for bankruptcy, the IRS agent demanded that I come to her office. This time, I had a lawyer with me. She asked why I did not pay the IRS when I received payment. The question stunned me and before I could answer, the lawyer told her that I had other bills to pay. The lawyer told me to make a sworn statement to that effect. I assumed that the lawyer was afraid to antagonize the agent.

Since virtually all of the company income was going to pay the member of the lawyer's staff, I could not afford to buy parts. Without credit, my suppliers stopped shipping and I had to close the company. When I made sworn testimony to the US Trustee, I made a point of saying that the assets statement understated the value of the company; everybody laughed! As the months passed, I had to refuse large orders and contracts that probably would have paid off much of the debt.

In order to raise the funds needed to pay the lawyers and to emerge from bankruptcy, I sold the building that housed the company and I closed the company permanently. I had knowhow and contacts, so it seemed possible that I could restart the business. But, after the bankruptcy, some of the creditors filed lawsuits against me for the money that they lost. I asked the bankruptcy lawyer for help and he told me that if a company creditor sues the company, he is responsible, but if the creditor sues me, it is not his problem. The lawyers for the creditors were unethical. They harassed my eighty years old parents and filed multiple lawsuits against them and me. One lawyer went so far as to send a batch of statements to me that showed other people's names, addresses, and social security numbers. I discovered that such tactics are perfectly legal!

My health degraded as the threats and harassment continued. I had to cancel my health insurance when I closed the company, so I could not go to a doctor. I lost a lot of weight and I think that I came close to death.

I was contacted by a company in Spain that wanted to buy the remains of my company. The exact amount was not negotiated, but it was in the high six digits. After some longdistance negotiation, he made plans to come to Westford for final talks. His lawyer decided that the bankruptcy was of questionable legality and the offer was withdrawn. I never heard from the individual again.

When my health improved, I contacted the Inspector General for Tax Administration, (IGTA) and filed a complaint against the agent who refused my payment and planned to seize my business. After a short investigation, IGTA determined that the agent had never refused my payment and had not authorized seizure of the business. The IGTA recommended that I file a complaint with the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers (BBO).

At this point, I had no doubt that the lawyer lied to me about the IRS. It appeared to me that when I hired him, I was his only client and his law firm went out-of-business during the bankruptcy. I suspected that he felt that he needed the money more than the IRS and used the bankruptcy as a means of getting the money.

I contacted the US Trustee and was told that they only investigate bankruptcies that are in the millions of dollars. I visited the FBI and talked to an agent. The agent told me that the FBI has no jurisdiction to investigate lawyers who commit federal crimes; the only agency with jurisdiction is the BBO. I contacted the Massachusetts Attorney General and was told to hire a lawyer; I had no money to hire a lawyer. I sent documents to the New Hampshire Attorney General, since part of the bankruptcy took place in New Hampshire. They actually read the documents and told me that the only agency with jurisdiction is the FBI.

The FBI would not have referred me to the BBO if they had not had total confidence in their ability to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation into the bankruptcy and the lawyer. Even though I did not trust the BBO, I sent a complaint to them. I charged the lawyer with fraud, tax fraud, embezzlement and perjury.

I used the correspondence with General Electric to prove perjury and embezzlement. I showed a letter from the lawyer representing General Electric which claimed never to have received payment, and the financial report from the bankruptcy showing that General Electric was paid and the debt discharged. I gave a copy of the complaint which I files with the BBO to the law firm representing General Electric, so that they would be aware that there was fraud related to this account.

After sending my complaint to the BBO, I received a telephone call from a BBO agent. She told me that I had to conduct an interrogation of the lawyer before they would investigate. I indicated that I had no experience in conducting criminal investigations. At her request, I sent a copy of the report from the Taxpayer Advocate, which probably should have been included in my original complaint.

After nine months, the BBO concluded their investigation and completely exonerated the lawyer of all charges. The BBO determined that the IRS agent was going to seize the business without cause. According to the BBO, the justification for seizure was that I failed to pay my employees after the IRS demanded those funds intended for payroll. The other reason was that I was behind paying other creditors. That was largely false because having good credit is essential in manufacturing and I made sure that my creditors were satisfied. Even if her statements had been true, it is no business of the IRS and had the agent accepted my payment, then the IRS would have had no justification for any action against me. Although not explicit, the BBO implied that both the IGTA and the Taxpayer Advocate lied, presumably to protect the agent.

The BBO did not address the issue of General Electric, but simply exonerated the lawyer of all charges. The BBO did not provide any proof to support their conclusions and exoneration. I requested to have the matter brought before the full Board and they refused. After the investigation was closed, the BBO sent a copy of the reply from the lawyers, which contained many false statements. The BBO did not show any evidence to support their acceptance of the lawyer's statements.

About two years later, General Electric demanded that I pay the full amount owed. I asked for an accounting of payments received and my request was ignored. When I did not, and could not, make payment, they "sold" the account to an accomplice in Las Vegas. He hired a Massachusetts lawyer to get the money that he was "owed." I sent a letter to him along with a sworn statement by the bankruptcy lawyer indicating that General Electric had been paid and the debt was discharged. I also sent a copy of the ethics rules for lawyers in Massachusetts, which states that any lawyer discovering misconduct by another lawyer must report the misconduct to the BBO. His response was a lawsuit against me.

Once I was served papers, I filed a "request for documents" with the BBO. Under court rules, a party in a lawsuit is permitted to request documents from a non-party. I requested proof that the lawyer had actually paid General Electric, since they had exonerated him on my charges of embezzlement. I also requested proof that the IRS was actually going

to seize the business as stated by the lawyers and subsequently denied by IGTA. The BBO refused my request. I made a written motion to the judge to compel discovery and he ignored my motion. I was denied discovery.

The lawyer for General Electric demanded summary judgment. I presented a sworn statement from my lawyer claiming that General Electric had been paid, along with the report from the BBO. I also presented a sworn statement from General Electric claiming that no funds had ever been received. The judge had proof of perjury and embezzlement. He ruled that I was legally responsible for paying General Electric. To my knowledge, nobody reported these crimes to any law enforcement agency. This was money laundering with the assistance of a district court judge!

I wrote a letter to the US Attorney to notify her that there was perjury and embezzlement in this case. I never received a reply, but a few months later, some sheriff's deputies conducted a warrantless search of my parent's property looking for something to seize for General Electric. I consider this witness intimidation. I do not know who has the authority to tell law enforcement officers to break the law.

I tried to file a complaint with the Westford Police, but they refused to take a complaint. Nearly a year later and before Town Meeting, I sent a message to the Chief that I would bring this matter up when he was discussing the budget. A captain and a patrolman took my complaint against the sheriff department. They assured me that an investigation would be forthcoming.

About eight months later, I saw in the newspaper that the sheriff committed suicide while visiting Wells, ME with some friends. Months later, I actually read the article. According to the Boston Globe, the police detective said that nobody heard the gunshot because the sheriff used a pillow as a silencer. Also, his friends noticed nothing unusual about him only hours before his death. I suspected that he may have been investigating my complaint and discovered organized crime. It was not until years later that I discovered that General Electric was negotiating with Massachusetts to put its headquarters in Boston. The deal would have fallen apart if it was known that General Electric was involved in money laundering.

I called the FBI and talked to an agent. The agent told me that these are all civil offenses and threatened me never to call the FBI again. I called the Massachusetts Attorney General and was told that they refer all such cases to the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) because of their limited resources.

Since I had no money to hire an LRS lawyer, I contacted the office of Senator Kerry. His aid asked me to send the report from the BBO to Senator Kerry's office. I included some important papers from the lawsuit filed by General Electric. Senator Kerry forwarded those documents to the BBO and asked them to take a second look. This would verify that they actually investigated my original complaint. The BBO confirmed their original conclusion that the bankruptcy lawyer did nothing wrong, and by default that the IRS acted improperly and General Electric was responsible for the missing funds.

When I finally had sufficient funds to hire the LRS to investigate the matter, I contacted them and requested a lawyer. To save time, I put the relevant documents on the internet. After they gave me the name of the first lawyer, I reviewed his background and discovered that he was a former ADA. I contacted him and gave him the address of the documents. He declined to take the case. The second lawyer was also an ADA, and he too declined. The third, and last lawyer, had no prosecutorial experience, but the LRS will only recommend three lawyers. The third lawyer wanted me to pay him \$25 to read through the documents. Once he read through the documents, he accepted the case and requested a retainer.

For three years, he pushed around papers that seemed to accomplish nothing. Finally, after three years, he wrote to the BBO and asked for the proof regarding General Electric. The BBO refused. Once most of the statutes of limitation had expired, he quit and returned some of my retainer. He had done nothing, except allow the statutes of limitation to expire, and waste my money. Either he was incompetent or somebody got to him.

A couple of years later, Maura Healey was elected Attorney General. I had hoped that she would put more emphasis on crime and corruption than her predecessor. I wrote a letter addressed to her and included the same documents that I had sent to the BBO through Senator Kerry's office. To my disappointment, she said that the Attorney General does not have the resources to investigate this case and referred me to the LRS.

The bankruptcy will dominate in my life for at least another ten years because of the judgments made against me. General Electric can make my life miserable for at least the next ten years. Furthermore, the IRS never forgives a debt. Last year, I learned about a program in Massachusetts called the Circuitbreaker which grants up to a thousand dollars to seniors whose property taxes exceed a certain portion of their income. I applied for the benefit and was refused because the IRS was never paid. After paying my property taxes, I do not even have enough money to heat my house in the winter.

Throughout this letter, I have told about the effect upon me. Thousands and possibly even tens of thousands have been harmed by this bankruptcy, not only in the United States, but around the world. I would like to give you an understanding of how much damage was done by one IRS agent.

I was most severely hurt. I had put my whole life into this business, including every cent that I had. At the time that the business had closed, I had had the business for over thirty years. I had a good reputation with my creditors and my customers. Now, I feel great shame that people who trusted me lost money. I have wanted to restart my business, but I have no money, no credit and my reputation is so bad that many people will not even return my calls.

I am deeply depressed and have tried to remedy my depression with creative tasks. I have taken thousands of wildlife and scenic photos of Westford. Then I studied Native

American artifacts found right in my own back yard. Then, I wrote a couple of novels about how honest people live their lives. Nothing helps and I do not expect that I will ever find happiness and peace.

It had been my intention to build up my business and then sell it. I was contacted periodically by brokers who expressed interest. With the money from the sale, I could tinker with devices that would help the blind and handicapped. I lost fifteen years of my life because of this agent and I have no hope of ever recovering. Now all is lost. I have no purpose in life and no reason for living except to take care of my 93 year-old mother and an old cat.

Other victims of this agent were my employees. Most of my employees had been with me for thirteen years. I was not able to pay them well, but I made up for it in other ways. They would have stayed with me for years more. They lost their jobs because of the bankruptcy. Some of them never went back to work.

The most people damaged by the agent and the bankruptcy were the blind people whom I served with my superior quality radios. Not only will I never make the radios again, but I cannot service the radios that fail because they are dropped or hit by lightning. Instead of buying my radios, the services for the blind must buy cheap Chinese radios that work poorly and fail all too soon. Most of the radios that I made fifteen or twenty years ago, are still in service.

Furthermore, if I were still working, I would be making other products to help the blind and handicapped. I can only imagine how many people whom I could have helped.

If I could have avoided bankruptcy, many others would not have been hurt. Most of the financial losses were in the banks that trusted me with their money. But my suppliers and contractors lost money and they lost my patronage. Some of them went out of business and their workers lost jobs.

The federal and state governments, across the country, lost money because of this IRS agent. The federal government lost the \$20,000 that the agent refused. They also lost the taxes that my employees would pay. The state of New Hampshire had to pay unemployment claims to my former employees. Unseen was the money that the federal and state government provided for the purchase of radios for the blind. Instead of purchasing high quality radios that would last for decades, the money went for cheap radios that would last only a few years. It was a loss for everybody.

The biggest loser may be the sheriff. I cannot be sure how or why he died. Maybe he did commit suicide as reported. Or maybe he was murdered for reasons that had nothing to do with General Electric. But maybe he was murdered because General Electric used the bankruptcy to further their money laundering scam. Since the evidence was probably destroyed by the Commonwealth, we may never know.

The people who benefited were the US Trustee and the bankruptcy judge. The needless and destructive bankruptcy justified their exorbitant salaries.

The biggest beneficiaries were the lawyers and their staff. I paid them over \$60,000 to resolve a \$20,000 debt and I lost my company, my career and my future. The BBO decided that they did nothing wrong, but I will always suspect that they acted in their own interest.

I recommend that Congress require IRS agents, who have direct contact with the general public, be tested for psychological stability. There is no place for bullies in the IRS. The BBO was required by ethical and legal standards to report their findings to the IRS upon learning that an agent had defrauded the government and a taxpayer. At the very least, the agent should have been terminated. Prosecution would have been appropriate. I believe that the agent's actions constitute a hate crime, but I cannot figure out why she hated me enough to destroy my company.

I also recommend that Congress establish a court to handle IRS issues such as mine. The bankruptcy court did as much damage as the IRS. It was a no-win situation for me. If the matter had gone to a court that handles IRS issues, the lawyer could have shown that the IRS agent refused the payment and the IRS had no business seizing the business.

Finally, there is the issue of Constitutional Rights. When the agent refused my payment for being three days late and then forced my company into bankruptcy, then that was a violation of my Eighth Amendment Right. When I was ignored by every lawenforcement agency, then that was a violation of my Fourteenth Amendment Right. When General Electric sued me and I was denied documents by the BBO, then that was a violation of my Fifth Amendment Right. When the judge made his ruling without a jury, then that was a violation of my Seventh Amendment Right. Finally, when the sheriff's deputies made a warrantless search of my elderly parent's property, then that was a violation of their Fourth Amendment Right. Throughout this matter, there has been a disregard for the Constitution.

The Massachusetts Attorney General is only concerned with LGBT, people-of-color and Muslims. The USDOJ is only concerned with people-of-color. Since I have no money to afford a civil-rights lawyer, in essence, I have no Constitutional Rights. I am a Vietnam veteran. I did not serve because I wanted adventure. I did not serve because I had great love for the Vietnamese people. I served because I love the Constitution. Unlike those special people who are served by the "Justice Departments," I did not inherit my Rights, I earned them by risking my life in service to our country. I deserve to have my Rights respected. I urge Congress to create a civil rights agency for all veterans who have earned their Rights.

One final word: Bullies, like this IRS agent, cause great pain. After my business was destroyed and I was persecuted by the creditors, I felt hopeless and I knew that my future was gone. I gave serious thought to suicide. The only reason that I am still alive is because my elderly parents needed me in their old age. I knew that they would be

persecuted by these bank lawyers after I was gone. Since then, I have read about IRS abuse. A number of people in this country have committed suicide because of IRS harassment. In many cases, it was discovered after their death that the IRS had made a mistake. Others suffered health problems that killed them because of IRS persecution.

My life is over; I will never recover from the damage done by this agent. But, you can introduce legislation that will resolve the problems with the IRS; you will save many people a lot of misery and you may probably save some lives!

I will send copies of the documents relating to the BBO investigation of this matter on a CD or by e-mail at your request. I will also testify before Congress if necessary. I hope that you see fit to take action regarding my letter.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Frank Karkota 17 Cowdry Hill Road Westford, MA 01886 Good morning Mr. Karkota,

My name is Alex and I am the Legislative Correspondent in the Office of Congresswoman Lori Trahan. I am reaching out to you regarding your correspondence to our office. I want to apologize as I do not believe we ever received your letter. Please send an attachment of the letter to me at this email, or send another copy to our Washington DC office and I'll make sure the Congresswoman personally sees your letter.

Our office address is as follows:

Office of Congresswoman Lori Trahan 1616 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Again, I apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused, and I encourage you to send another copy to our office. Congresswoman Trahan values the opinions of all her constituents and takes them into account in all decisions she makes in Congress.

If I can ever be of further assistance to you please don't hesitate to reach out to me at this email, or give our office a call at (978) 459-0101 or (202) 225-3411.

Looking forward to reading your letter, Alex

## **Alexandra Karabatsos**

Legislative Correspondent Representative Lori Trahan - MA03 (202) 225-3411 August 29, 2019

Senator Edward J. Kennedy 24 Beacon Street Room 405 Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Kennedy:

I am writing to tell you about corruption at the highest level of the Massachusetts government. I suspect that an elected official of Massachusetts was murdered to cover the corruption. If laws are not changed, other people will be hurt. In addition, thousands of people were indirectly harmed in various ways because of this corruption.

I owned a small company that made special radios so that blind people could listen to the daily newspapers. There are services all over the country that provide this programming for the blind. Other engineers had tried to make these radios, but they did not work well. They were noisy with poor fidelity. So I worked hard and used all of my talent to make a superior product. They were, literally, the best radios ever made for this purpose. Although my radios were expensive, they were well worth the money and the listeners appreciated my efforts. It brought me so much satisfaction that my talents made a positive difference in people's lives.

We also made equipment for emergency alerting such as AMBER alerts. We even sold special radios to United States Army. My employees and I were proud of our company. Occasionally we were contacted by brokers who wanted to arrange the sale of my company to a large company, but I had no interest in giving up my work.

My problems started in September 2001 when a part supplier for my company failed to provide a mission-critical part within a just-in-time agreement. A replacement part would not be available for three months. A few days later, the 9/11 attack created chaos in the financial world. I used all of my credit to keep production going and worked around the missing part. I was unable to pay my quarterly withholding taxes.

As I tried to recover, I made payments to the IRS as often as I could. Fortunately, in 2002, I got a major design contract. I also sold my house to pay off my home equity loan. By February 2003, I had finished a major part of the contract and was expecting payment within weeks. The IRS agent assigned to my business demanded that I appear in her office to discuss the amount that I owed from 2001.

She berated me from the minute I walked into her office, calling me a liar, a tax cheat, and other derogatory terms. When I explained that I was catching up and would be able to pay the back taxes within a month, she accused me of lying. She demanded to know if I had any money in my account and I told her that I had money for that week's payroll. She demanded that I give the funds intended for my employees to the IRS. She told me that I could go to any bank and get a loan to pay the taxes. She demanded the balance of money within two weeks.

I went to the bank and asked for a loan to cover two weeks, so that I could meet the deadline set by the agent. I could repay the loan when I was paid for the contract that had just been completed. Instead of a loan, the bank referred me to a "non-traditional lender" who might be able to help. The lender referred me to his lawyers.

I hired the lawyers for the sole purpose of negotiating with the IRS for another two weeks when I would be paid by my client. I signed a power-of-attorney to authorize the lawyers to contact the IRS on my behalf. I expected them to fulfill my request.

The next week, I received a payment of \$20,000 which was sufficient to pay the IRS in full. I notified the lawyers and asked them to contact the agent and advise that payment would be made within days. I thought that all was well and started negotiations of other contracts.

A few weeks later, the lawyers told me that the agent refused my payment because I had failed to meet her arbitrary deadline. They said that the IRS would seize my business the following morning. The lawyers told me that I could get protection from the bankruptcy court, but I had to sign the papers immediately, so that they could be filed before the court closed. The lawyers had no time to look at the company books or discuss bankruptcy with me. The only reason that I filed for bankruptcy was to prevent IRS seizure; it had nothing to do with the financial conditions of the company.

Once the company was in bankruptcy, I had to hire a member of the lawyer's staff to assist me in meeting the legal obligations of a "debtor in possession." I had to refrain from paying any bills and I had to close my checking accounts. The bankruptcy lawyer told me to make an inventory of company assets. In following his instructions, many assets were not included and those that were reported were grossly undervalued. I later learned that the lawyer falsely stated to the court that my company was insolvent and unable to pay its bills.

Shortly after filing for bankruptcy, the IRS agent demanded that I come to her office. This time, I had a lawyer with me. She asked why I did not pay the IRS when I received payment. The question stunned me and before I could answer, the lawyer told her that I had other bills to pay. The lawyer told me to sign a sworn statement to that effect. I assumed that the lawyer was afraid to antagonize the agent.

Since virtually all of the company income was going to pay the member of the lawyer's staff, I could not afford to buy parts. Without credit, my suppliers stopped shipping and I had to close the company. When I made sworn testimony to the US Trustee, I made a point of saying that the assets statement understated the value of the company; everybody laughed! As the months passed, I had to refuse large orders and contracts that probably would have paid off much of the debt.

In order to raise the funds needed to pay the lawyers and to emerge from bankruptcy, I sold the building that housed the company and I closed the company permanently. I had knowhow and contacts, so it seemed possible that I could restart the business. But, after the bankruptcy, some of the creditors filed lawsuits against me for the money that they lost. I asked the bankruptcy lawyer for help and he told me that if a company creditor sues the company, he is responsible, but if the creditor sues me, it is not his problem. The lawyers for the creditors were unethical. They harassed my eighty year-old parents and filed multiple lawsuits against them and me. One lawyer went so far as to send a batch of statements to me that showed other people's names, addresses, and social security numbers. I discovered that such tactics are perfectly legal!

My health degraded as the threats and harassment continued. I had to cancel my health insurance when I closed the company, so I could not go to a doctor. I lost a lot of weight and I think that I came close to death.

I was contacted by a company in Spain that wanted to buy the remains of my company. The exact amount was not negotiated, but it was in the high six digits. After some longdistance negotiation, he made plans to come to Westford for final talks. His lawyer decided that the bankruptcy was of questionable legality and the offer was withdrawn. I never heard from the individual again.

When my health improved, I contacted the Inspector General for Tax Administration, (IGTA) and filed a complaint against the agent who refused my payment and planned to seize my business. After a short investigation, IGTA determined that the agent had never refused my payment and had not authorized seizure of the business. The IGTA recommended that I file a complaint with the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers (BBO).

At this point, I had no doubt that the lawyer lied to me about the IRS. It appeared to me that when I hired him, I was his only client and his law firm went out-of-business during the bankruptcy. I suspected that he felt that he needed the money more than the IRS and used the bankruptcy as a means of getting the money.

I contacted the US Trustee and was told that they only investigate bankruptcies that are in the millions of dollars. I visited the FBI and talked to an agent. The agent told me that the FBI has no jurisdiction to investigate lawyers who commit federal crimes; the only agency with jurisdiction is the BBO. I contacted the Massachusetts Attorney General and was told to hire a lawyer; I had no money to hire a lawyer. I sent documents to the New Hampshire Attorney General, since part of the bankruptcy took place in New Hampshire. They actually read the documents and told me that the only agency with jurisdiction is the FBI.

The FBI would not have referred me to the BBO if they had not had total confidence in their ability to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation into the bankruptcy and the lawyer. Even though I did not trust the BBO, I sent a complaint to them. I charged the lawyer with fraud, tax fraud, embezzlement and perjury.

I used the correspondence with General Electric to prove perjury and embezzlement. I showed a letter from the lawyer representing General Electric which claimed never to have received payment, and the financial report from the bankruptcy showing that General Electric was paid and the debt discharged. I gave a copy of the complaint which I filed with the BBO to the law firm representing General Electric, so that they would be aware that there was fraud related to this account.

After sending my complaint to the BBO, I received a telephone call from a BBO agent. She told me that I had to conduct an interrogation of the lawyer before they would investigate. I indicated that I had no experience in conducting criminal investigations. At her request, I sent a copy of the report from the Taxpayer Advocate, which probably should have been included in my original complaint.

After nine months, the BBO concluded their investigation and completely exonerated the lawyer of all charges. The BBO determined that the IRS agent was going to seize the business without cause. According to the BBO, the justification for seizure was that I failed to pay my employees after the IRS demanded those funds intended for payroll. The other reason was that I was behind paying other creditors. That was largely false because having good credit is essential in manufacturing and I made sure that my creditors were satisfied. Even if her statements had been true, it is no business of the IRS and had the agent accepted my payment, then the IRS would have had no justification for any action against me. Although not explicit, the BBO implied that both the IGTA and the Taxpayer Advocate lied, presumably to protect the agent.

The BBO did not address the issue of General Electric, but simply exonerated the lawyer of all charges. The BBO did not provide any proof to support their conclusions and exoneration. I requested to have the matter brought before the full Board and they refused. After the investigation was closed, the BBO sent a copy of the reply from the lawyers, which contained many false statements. The BBO did not show any evidence to support their acceptance of the lawyer's statements.

About two years later, General Electric demanded that I pay the full amount owed. I asked for an accounting of payments received and my request was ignored. When I did not, and could not, make payment, they "sold" the account to an accomplice in Las Vegas. He hired a Massachusetts lawyer to get the money that he was "owed." I sent a letter to him along with a sworn statement by the bankruptcy lawyer indicating that General Electric had been paid and the debt was discharged. I also sent a copy of the ethics rules for lawyers in Massachusetts, which states that any lawyer discovering misconduct by another lawyer must report the misconduct to the BBO. His response was a lawsuit against me.

Once I was served papers, I filed a "request for documents" with the BBO. Under court rules, a party in a lawsuit is permitted to request documents from a non-party. I requested proof that the lawyer had actually paid General Electric, since they had exonerated him on my charges of embezzlement. I also requested proof that the IRS was actually going

to seize the business as stated by the lawyers and subsequently denied by IGTA. The BBO refused my request. I made a written motion to the judge to compel discovery and he ignored my motion. I was denied discovery.

The lawyer for General Electric demanded summary judgment. I presented a sworn statement from the bankruptcy lawyer claiming that General Electric had been paid, along with the report from the BBO. I also presented a sworn statement from General Electric claiming that no funds had ever been received. The judge had proof of perjury and embezzlement. He ruled that I was legally responsible for paying General Electric. To my knowledge, nobody reported these crimes to any law enforcement agency. This was money laundering with the assistance of a district court judge!

I wrote a letter to the US Attorney to notify her that there was perjury and embezzlement in this case. I never received a reply, but a few months later, some sheriff deputies conducted a warrantless search of my parent's property looking for something to seize for General Electric. I consider this witness intimidation. I do not know who has the authority to tell law enforcement officers to break the law.

I tried to file a complaint with the Westford Police, but they refused to take a complaint. Nearly a year later and before Town Meeting, I sent a message to the Chief that I would bring this matter up when he was discussing the budget. A captain and a patrolman took my complaint against the sheriff department. They assured me that an investigation would be forthcoming.

About eight months later, I saw in the newspaper that the sheriff committed suicide while visiting Wells, ME with some friends. Months later, I actually read the article. According to the Boston Globe, the police detective said that nobody heard the gunshot because the sheriff used a pillow as a silencer. Also, his friends noticed nothing unusual about him only hours before his death. I suspected that he may have been investigating my complaint and discovered organized crime. It was not until years later that I discovered that General Electric was negotiating with Massachusetts to put its headquarters in Boston. The deal would have fallen apart if it was known that General Electric was involved in money laundering.

I called the FBI and talked to an agent. The agent told me that these are all civil offenses and threatened me never to call the FBI again. I called the Massachusetts Attorney General and was told that they have limited resources and refer all such cases to the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS).

Since I had no money to hire an LRS lawyer, I contacted the office of Senator Kerry. His aid asked me to send the report from the BBO to Senator Kerry's office. I included some important papers from the lawsuit filed by General Electric. Senator Kerry forwarded those documents to the BBO and asked them to take a second look. This would verify that they actually investigated my original complaint. The BBO confirmed their original conclusion that the bankruptcy lawyer did nothing wrong, and by default that the IRS acted improperly and General Electric was responsible for the missing funds.

When I finally had sufficient funds to hire the LRS to investigate the matter, I contacted them and requested a lawyer. To save time, I put the relevant documents on the internet. After they gave me the name of the first lawyer, I reviewed his background and discovered that he was a former ADA. I contacted him and gave him the address of the documents. He declined to take the case. The second lawyer was also an ADA, and he too declined. The third, and last lawyer, had no prosecutorial experience, but the LRS will only recommend three lawyers. The third lawyer wanted me to pay him \$25 to read through the documents. Once he read through the documents, he accepted the case and requested a retainer.

For three years, he pushed around papers that seemed to accomplish nothing. Finally, after three years, he wrote to the BBO and asked for the proof regarding General Electric. The BBO refused. Once most of the statutes of limitation had expired, he quit and returned some of the retainer. He had done nothing, except allow the statutes of limitation to expire, and waste my money. Either he was incompetent or somebody got to him.

A couple of years later, Maura Healey was elected Attorney General. I had hoped that she would put more emphasis on crime and corruption than her predecessor. I wrote a letter addressed to her and included the same documents that I had sent to the BBO through Senator Kerry's office. To my disappointment, she said that the Attorney General does not have the resources to investigate this case and referred me to the LRS.

The bankruptcy will dominate my life for at least another ten years because of the judgments made against me. General Electric can make my life miserable for at least the next ten years. Furthermore, the IRS never forgives a debt. Last year, I learned about a program in Massachusetts called the "Circuit Breaker" which grants up to a thousand dollars to seniors whose property taxes exceed a certain portion of their income. I applied for the benefit and was refused because the IRS was never paid. After paying my property taxes, I do not even have enough money to heat my house in the winter.

Throughout this letter, I have told about the effect upon me. Thousands and possibly even tens of thousands have been harmed by this bankruptcy, not only in the United States, but around the world. I would like to give you an understanding of how much damage was done by the bankruptcy and one IRS agent.

I was most severely hurt. I had put my whole life into this business, including every cent that I had. At the time that the business had closed, I had had the business for over thirty years. I had a good reputation with my creditors and my customers. Now, I feel great shame that people who trusted me lost money. I have wanted to restart my business, but I have no money, no credit and my reputation is so bad that many people will not even return my calls.

I am deeply depressed and have tried to remedy my depression with creative tasks. I have taken thousands of wildlife and scenic photos of Westford. Then I studied Native

American artifacts found right in my own back yard. Next, I wrote a couple of novels about how honest people live their lives. Nothing helps and I do not expect that I will ever find happiness and peace.

It had been my intention to build up my business and then sell it. I was contacted periodically by brokers who expressed interest. With the money from the sale, I could tinker with devices that would help the blind and handicapped. I lost fifteen years of my life because of this legal mess and I have no hope of ever recovering. Now all is lost. I have no purpose in life and no reason for living except to take care of my 94 year-old mother.

Other victims were my employees. Most of my employees had been with me for thirteen years. I was not able to pay them well, but I made up for it in other ways. They would have stayed with me for years more. They lost their jobs because of the bankruptcy. Some of them never went back to work.

The most people hurt were the blind people whom I served with my superior quality radios. Not only will I never make the radios again, but I cannot service the radios that fail because they are dropped or hit by lightning. Instead of buying my radios, the services for the blind must buy cheap Chinese radios that work poorly and fail all too soon. Most of the radios that I made fifteen or twenty years ago are still in service.

Furthermore, if I were still working, I would be making other products to help the blind and handicapped. I can only imagine how many people whom I could have helped.

If I could have avoided bankruptcy, many others would not have been hurt. Most of the financial losses were in the banks that trusted me with their money. But my suppliers and contractors lost money and they lost my patronage. Some of them went out of business and their workers lost jobs.

The federal and state governments, across the country, lost money because of the bankruptcy. The federal government lost the \$20,000 that the agent purportedly refused. They also lost the taxes that my employees would pay. The state had to pay unemployment claims to my former employees. Unseen was the money that the federal and state governments provided for the purchase of radios for the blind. Instead of purchasing high quality radios that would last for decades, the money went for cheap radios that would last only a few years. It was a loss for everybody.

The biggest loser may be the sheriff. I cannot be sure how or why he died. Maybe he did commit suicide as reported. Or maybe he was murdered for reasons that had nothing to do with General Electric. But maybe he was murdered because General Electric used the bankruptcy to further their money laundering scam. Since the evidence was probably destroyed by the BBO, we may never know.

The people who benefited were the US Trustee and the bankruptcy judge. The needless and destructive bankruptcy justified their exorbitant salaries.

The biggest beneficiaries were the lawyers and their staff. I paid them over \$60,000 to resolve a \$20,000 debt and I lost my company, my career and my future; the debt was not even resolved. The BBO decided that the lawyers did nothing wrong, but I will always suspect that they acted in their own interest.

When the BBO concluded its investigation, they should have provided proof to support their conclusions. They should have given proof to me that the IRS agent acted improperly and that IGTA and the Taxpayer Advocate actually lied. If they had done so, maybe I could have collected the "Circuit Breaker" refund. They should have provided documents to prove that General Electric was actually paid. I question the honesty of the staff of the BBO, but I have to trust them.

The Massachusetts Attorney General should have the resources to investigate crime and corruption. I am not convinced that the lawyer did not commit a crime. I am certain that the judge covered up perjury and embezzlement. I believe that the sheriff deputies conducted an illegal search and witness intimidation. And I suspect that the sheriff was murdered. If the Attorney General cannot investigate these matters, then a new agency should be created with that authority.

There should also be an agency that assists victims of crime and violation of civil rights. If and when the agent refused my payment for being three days late and then forced my company into bankruptcy, then that was a violation of my Eighth Amendment Right. When I was ignored by every law-enforcement agency, then that was a violation of my Fourteenth Amendment Right. When General Electric sued me and I was denied documents by the BBO, then that was a violation of my Fifth Amendment Right. When the judge made his ruling without a jury, then that was a violation of my Seventh Amendment Right. Finally, when the sheriff deputies made a warrantless search of my elderly parent's property, then that was a violation of their Fourth Amendment Right. Throughout this matter, there has been a disregard for the Constitution.

The Massachusetts Attorney General is only concerned with LGBT, people-of-color and Muslims. The USDOJ is only concerned with people-of-color. Since I have no money to afford a civil-rights lawyer, in essence, I have no Constitutional Rights. I am a Vietnam veteran. I did not serve because I wanted adventure. I did not serve because I had great love for the Vietnamese people. I served because I love the Constitution. Unlike those special people who are protected by the Attorney General, I did not inherit my Rights, I earned them by risking my life in service to our country. I deserve to have my Rights respected. I urge the state to create a civil rights agency for all veterans who have earned their Rights.

My life is over; I will never recover from the damage done by the bankruptcy. But, you can introduce legislation that will resolve some of these problems; you will save many people a lot of misery and you may probably save some lives!

After reading my letter, there are several questions that should be asked:

Why did the BBO not provide me with proof of misconduct by the IRS? Why did they not provide me with proof that General Electric embezzled money from the account that my company held? Why did they wait until after they closed the investigation to show me the response from the lawyer?

When the judge in the General Electric case realized that perjury and embezzlement had occurred, why did he not report the matter to those agencies that investigate such crimes?

When I contacted the Attorney General, why did they not investigate? Why do they not have the resources? Is it because of insufficient funds, or are resources being misallocated?

Since the Attorney General refers cases of crime and corruption to the LRS, does the Attorney General monitor that agency to be sure that LRS lawyers are capable of investigating and prosecuting major cases?

Why does Massachusetts not have an agency to investigate violations of civil rights like many other states? Why is there no place where a crime victim can get help?

I will send copies of the documents relating to the BBO investigation of this matter on a CD or by e-mail at your request. I will also testify before a state committee if necessary. I hope that you see fit to take action regarding my letter.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Frank Karkota 17 Cowdry Hill Road Westford, MA 01886 January 2, 2020

Dear Congresswoman Trahan:

I apologize for sending this letter to your home, rather than your office, but this is my fourth attempt to send this letter. My first attempt was made on July 3, 2019 to your Lowell office, but the letter was never received. My second attempt was by e-mail on August 22, 2019 to Alex Karabatsos. I sent a follow-up by mail a week later. I have not received any acknowledgment to any of my letters.

I realize that legislation takes time, but it is professional promptly to acknowledge receipt of letters, especially when they are composed by the sender and not form letters. Therefore, I must assume that my letters are being lost in transit. The postal service in Westford is somewhat efficient and it seems unlikely that this letter will be lost between the Forge Village post office and your home.

I hope that when you return to Washington, you can forward my letter to those committees that will draft appropriate legislation and prevent others from suffering the same fate as I.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Frank Karkota 17 Cowdry Hill Road Westford, MA 01886-1226 July 3, 2020

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs 3460 O'Neill House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Congressman Phil Roe, MD,

As a Vietnam veteran, I did not inherit my Constitutional Rights, I earned them! When corrupt government officials denied my Constitutional Rights, it was a repudiation of my service to our country. I would like to see legislation to protect the Constitutional Rights of those who have risked their lives to defend our country and the Constitution.

I lost my business, my life savings, my career, my reputation, and my future, in addition to my health, because of fraud that was sanctioned by the government. My fifth, seventh, eighth, and fourteenth amendment rights were violated, and my father's (a WWII veteran) fourth amendment rights were violated by rouge sheriff deputies whose intent was to intimidate me.

I tried to get help from my local police, the district attorney, the attorneys general of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the FBI, and the DOJ. I tried to find a lawyer who would help, but without any money, it was hopeless. I also tried private agencies like the VFW, but they did not want to get involved. I could not even find somebody with whom I could discuss this matter as my mental and physical health deteriorated.

Seventeen years have passed; I am now 72 years old and have given up any hope of justice. But, if I can see changes in the law, I will have some vindication and closure.

A year ago, I wrote a letter to Congresswoman Lori Trahan and sent it to her Lowell office. When, after two months, I did not get a reply, I sent a follow-up e-mail. Her aid suggested that I attach it to an e-mail or mail it to her Washington office; I did both but there was no reply. Finally, I mailed a copy to her home. (She lives just down the road from me.) That was six months ago and she has not even acknowledged receiving any of my letters.

If she had received my letter, she probably would have forwarded a copy to your committee. Therefore, I am sending the copy directly to you. Please read my letter and consider legislation to guarantee that veterans are never denied their Constitutional Rights. I would be pleased to work with your staff to draft legislation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,

Frank Karkota 17 Cowdry Hill Road Westford, MA 01886

fkarkota@compolinc.com

July 23, 2020

Joint Committee on the Judiciary 24 Beacon Street Room 511-C Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Eldridge:

Seventeen years ago, I was the victim of fraud. I lost my business, my life savings, my career, my reputation, and my future. The fraud was compounded by corruption at high levels of the government. Thousands of others, around the world, were indirectly hurt by this fraud.

I am now 72 years old and I will never recover. The statutes of limitations have all expired and I will never receive justice. But if can I see the laws changed, at least I will feel some vindication and closure.

For the last fifteen years, I have been writing to my state representative, James Arciero, as well as my state senator and his predecessors. I have never received a reply or even an acknowledgement of my letters.

I am forwarding a copy of my last letter sent to State Senator Edward J. Kennedy. Please read it and consider legislation so that nobody will ever suffer as I have. I can send, upon request, documents to support most of the allegations in my letter. Also note that I have sent a similar letter, regarding abuse of federal law, to Representative Lori Trahan, for which I have not received a response.

One last point: I am a Vietnam veteran. There have been violations by the government of the Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments. I did not inherit my Constitutional rights; I earned them by risking my life in defense of the Constitution. My treatment by the government is a repudiation of my service and sacrifice to our country. I hope that you will remember this as you read my letter.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Regards,

Frank Karkota 17 Cowdry Hill Road Westford, MA 01886

Digital cc: Members of Joint Committee on the Judiciary Senator Edward J. Kennedy, Representative James Arciero August 3, 2020

Frank Karkota 17 Cowdry Hill Road Westford, MA 01886

Dear Mr. Karkota,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate you contacting my office regarding these matters and sharing your concerns with me.

I will continue to keep your thoughts and concerns in mind when these matters come before the Massachusetts State Senate for a vote.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any further questions or concerns that you may have, as I greatly value the input of the constituents that I proudly serve.

All the best,

Edward J. Kennedy State Senator First Middlesex District