

U56513

SEC. 23

SCARLETT A. MARTIN

\*

NUMBER:

DIV.

VERSUS

\*

19<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

JEFF LANDRY IN HIS OFFICIAL  
CAPACITY AS THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL OF LOUISIANA

\*

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

\*

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PETITION FOR MANDAMUS, INJUNCTION, DECLARATORY RELIEF  
AND DAMAGES

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, comes petitioner, SCARLETT A. MARTIN, an individual domiciled in the State of Indiana, who respectfully represents as follows:

I.

Made defendant herein is:

A) Jeff Landry in his official capacity as the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, a statewide elected official whose primary office is located in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.

II.

Scarlett A. Martin, plaintiff herein, is a person over the age of majority as require by LSA-R.S. 44:32(A).

III.

Jeff Landry is the elected Attorney General for the State of Louisiana who is over the Louisiana Department of Justice which office is a public body pursuant to LSA-R.S. 44:1.(A)(1).

IV.

Pursuant to LSA-R.S. 44:1.(A)(3), Jeff Landry is the custodian of all public records of the Office of Attorney General/Department of Justice and pursuant to LSA-R.S. 44:36.(A), Jeff Landry is obligated to preserve all public documents and records within his custody and control.

V.

On September 30, 2016, Scarlett A. Martin, pursuant to Louisiana Public Records Statutes, LSA-R.S. 44:1, *et. seq.*, propounded unto the Custodian of Records for the Louisiana Attorney General Department of Justice a request for public records seeking the production of correspondence that relates to the exploration of hydrocarbons including, but not limited to, correspondence between the Defendant's office and several enumerated individuals and entities, which request is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

2017 MAR 24 PM 12:40  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

VI.

On September 30, 2016, Scarlett A. Martin propounded unto the Custodian of Records for the Louisiana Attorney Department of Justice a request for public records seeking the production of records related to Jeff Landry's travel, Jeff Landry's calendar, contracts with attorneys and/or law firms, and vehicle purchases, which request is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

VII.

On October 10, 2016, Ms. Shannon Dirmann, Assistant Attorney General Louisiana Department of Justice, confirmed receipt of Ms. Martin's public records request and indicated by email communication that "within 30 days," she would issue a notification to Ms. Martin "as to whether records have been located that are responsive and approximately when they will be ready for review," which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

VIII.

By email communication dated October 17, 2016, Ms. Martin expanded her public records request to include contracts and correspondence for legal representation that have been reviewed by the Defendant public body since January 11, 2016, which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

VIX.

At the request of the Ms. Martin, Ms. Dirmann indicated on November 10, 2016 that the public record request was currently being processed and that an update would be forthcoming "early next week," which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

X.

On November 15, 2016 Ms. Dirmann indicated by email that the response to the public records requests would be "ready as soon as possible," which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

XI.

Having been not been provided records responsive to her public records request, Ms.

Martin asked for an updated on January 4, 2017, which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

XII.

Ultimately, Ms. Dirmann verbally informed Ms. Martin that the cost of the copying to produce the requested materials would be \$250.00 and in response, on January 6, 2017 Ms. Martin mailed to the Defendant her personal check number 1541 in the amount requested amount of \$250.00.

XIII.

When the documents pursuant to the requests were not produced, counsel for Scarlett A. Martin wrote Ms. Dirmann a January 24, 2017 letter seeking production of the requested documents immediately, which letter is attached hereto as Exhibit "D" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

XIV.

Ms. Dirmann responded on February 2, 2017 to Ms. Martin's counsel indicating that a portion of the public documents that were requested could be ready for production within seven (7) business days, which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "E" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

XV.

On February 6, 2017, Ms. Dirmann indicated that a portion of the public documents would be produced no later than February 13, 2017, which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "F" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

XVI.

When the public documents were not produced when the Defendant indicated that they would be, counsel for Ms. Martin emailed Laura F. Barbalich (Project Management Officer, Administrative Services, Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry) asking for the documents and Ms. Barbalich once more provided more excuses as to why the production of the documents has not occurred, which email is attached hereto as Exhibit "G" and incorporated herein by reference with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

XVII.

Jeff Landry, in his official capacity as the Attorney General of Louisiana, is the custodian of all public records under his custody and control and has arbitrarily, capriciously and

unreasonably withheld the public records requested by Scarlett A. Martin. Specifically, as of this filing ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE (175) days have elapsed since the request for production of public documents was made and although payment for production has been provided, the Defendant refuses to produce the public documents in violation of the Public Records Statutes, LSA-R.S. 44:1. *et seq.*

XVIII.

Within the intent and meaning of LSA-R.S. 44:35, Scarlett A. Martin is a person who has been wrongfully denied the right to inspect, copy, reproduce or obtain a copy or reproduction of public documents which she has requested and therefore prays for a writ of mandamus, injunction and/or declaratory relief from this Court ordering Jeff Landry, in his official capacity as the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, to produce each and every public document requested in an un-redacted manner that is responsive to the public record requests of September 30, 2016, as modified on October 17, 2016, together with attorney fees, costs, damages and civil penalties.

XIX.

In accordance with Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, Articles 1572, 1913 and 1914, plaintiff requests written notice of any and all assignments of this case for trial or hearing and notice of any signing of any Judgment herein.


XX.

Petitioner herein alleges that her damages herein will not exceed the sum of \$75,000.00 and she will never request \$75,000.00 or more from the Defendant for damages sustained.

**WHEREFORE**, petitioner prays that after due proceedings are had, there be Judgment as follows:

- I) In favor of plaintiff, Scarlett A. Martin, and against defendant, Jeff Landry, in his official capacity as the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, granting the plaintiff the relief prayed for herein above;
- II) Granting plaintiff legal interest on all sums awarded from their respective due dates, or alternatively, from date of judicial demand, until paid, and casting defendant with all costs of these proceedings, including expert witness fees and costs; and
- III) For all general and equitable relief.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**  
Attorney for plaintiff:



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**CHRISTOPHER L. WHITTINGTON**  
Williamson, Fontenot, Campbell &  
Whittington, LLC  
Bar Roll No.: 22184  
P. O. Box 3035  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-3035  
Telephone: (225) 383-4010  
Facsimile: (225) 383-4114  
Email: [chris@lawyerbatonrouge.com](mailto:chris@lawyerbatonrouge.com)

**PLEASE SERVE:**

**Honorable Jeff Landry**  
Attorney General State of Louisiana  
Livingston Building  
1885 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

The Honorable Jeff M. Landry  
Attorney General  
State of Louisiana  
1885 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
[Executive@ag.louisiana.gov](mailto:Executive@ag.louisiana.gov)

Friday, September 30, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the Louisiana Public Records Act § 44:1 et seq., I respectfully request copies of the following records from the Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry during his tenure in office:

- All correspondence between Attorney General Jeff Landry (or any members of the Attorney General's office during Attorney General Landry's tenure in office including Shane Guidry, Elizabeth Murrill, and Bill Stiles, and any representatives of companies (and/or trade associations representing such companies) involved in the exploration for and production of hydrocarbons, including the following and any of their members:
  - Louisiana Oil and Gas Association and any of its representatives, including Don Briggs;
  - Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association and any of its representatives, including Chris John;
  - Louisiana Association of Business Interests and any of its representatives including Brian Landry;
  - Kyle Ruckert of Bold Strategies and;
  - Chester Cedars.
- All correspondence between Attorney General Jeff Landry (or any members of the Attorney General's office during Attorney General Landry's tenure in office) and Louisiana Lawsuit Abuse Watch or any of its representatives, including its Executive Director, Melissa Landry.

I narrow this request to cover correspondence including letter and email to the Attorney General himself and to Executive Assistant Sarah Romero Mule'.

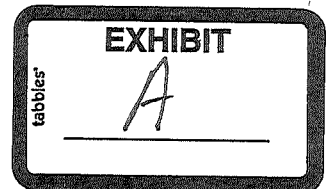
Section 44:32(D) of the Louisiana Public Records Act requires a response within three business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than that time period, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Scarlett A. Martin  
934 East Bradbury Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46203



PH 615-417-5963  
[scarlettashlen@gmail.com](mailto:scarlettashlen@gmail.com)

The Honorable Jeff M. Landry  
Attorney General  
State of Louisiana  
1885 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
[Executive@ag.louisiana.gov](mailto:Executive@ag.louisiana.gov)

Friday, September 30, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the Louisiana Public Records Act § 44:1 et seq., I respectfully request copies of the following records from the Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry's immediate office:

- Records related to Attorney General Landry's travel to any and all conferences, speaking engagements and public appearances during his tenure in this office to date. This information should include:
  - The dates, destinations and purpose of that travel;
  - Staff and/or family members who accompanied the Attorney General on those trips;
  - Records for travel (air, rental cars, rail or water travel), including itemized receipts;
  - Lodging records, including itemized receipts;
  - Meal records, including itemized receipts.
- The Attorney General's office calendar showing in-office meetings from the day he took office to the current date;
- Records showing all contracts awarded to attorneys and/or law firms during Mr. Landry's tenure to represent the state and any state entities in litigation;
- Records showing all vehicles purchased by the Louisiana Department of Justice during Attorney General Landry's tenure, including record of:
  - Each vehicle's make and model,
  - The number of vehicles,
  - The name and address of the vendor for each vehicle.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$250.00. In addition, if it is preferable for you that either I or my designee first view these records in your offices, please inform me of that preference and I will make arrangements for viewing.

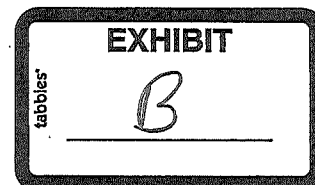
Section 44:32(D) of the Louisiana Public Records Act requires a response within three business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than that time period, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Scarlett A. Martin  
934 East Bradbury Ave.





Indianapolis, IN 46203  
PH 615-417-5963  
[scarlettashlen@gmail.com](mailto:scarlettashlen@gmail.com)



---

**Re: LADOJ Public Records Request**

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**Scarlett Andrews Martin** <scarlettashlen@gmail.com>  
To: "Dirmann, Shannon" <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov>

4 January 2017 at 16:46

Thank you. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best,  
Scarlett

Scarlett A. Martin

On 4 January 2017 at 16:44, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

Hi Scarlett,

I am checking with our staff on the status of your request and will call you back shortly.

Shannon

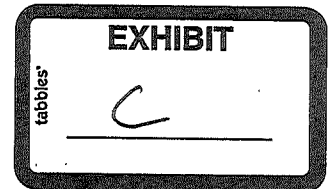
**From:** Scarlett Andrews Martin [mailto:scarlettashlen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2017 11:37 AM  
**To:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Subject:** Re: LADOJ Public Records Request

Hi Shannon,

I hope you had a great holiday season. I wanted to check back about my public records request. Can you please provide an update?

Thank you,

Scarlett A. Martin



On 5 December 2016 at 10:10, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

We will continue the processing and advise when we have an exact amount. I will send you an invoice and you can mail a check. Thank you for getting back to me.

Shannon

**From:** Scarlett Andrews Martin [mailto:scarletlashlen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 02, 2016 2:40 PM  
**To:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Subject:** Re: LADOJ Public Records Request

Hi Shannon,

Thank you for your response. I would like to move forward with the items that have been approved. How should I pay you for the cost?

Best,

Scarlett

Scarlett A. Martin

On 2 December 2016 at 15:06, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

We have identified 121 that were approved, and each contract on average is estimated to be about 8-10 pages. So an estimated 1000-1200 pages. That would be around \$300 for the contract portion of your request. The 6 other items are still being processed.

**From:** Scarlett Andrews Martin [mailto:scarletlashlen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 02, 2016 11:54 AM  
**To:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Subject:** Re: LADOJ Public Records Request

Hi Shannon,

Thank you for your email. Can you provide an estimated number of pages?

Thank you,

Scarlett A. Martin

On 1 December 2016 at 16:50, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

Hi Scarlett,

We are continuing to process your public records request. For the part of your request that relates to contracts, I just want to make sure that you want every copy of the contracts individually, correct? It looks like it will be hundreds of pages in addition to the other items in your request, so before we review them for duplication I want to make sure you will be able to pay .25 per page for the production (each contract is typically at least 7-10 pages). If that is not what you want, we can also provide you a list of the contracts since 1/1/16, and you can choose which ones you would like printed to lower the number of pages. Please let me know.

Sincerely,

Shannon Dirmann

Assistant Attorney General

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**From:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 5:08 PM  
**To:** 'Scarlett Andrews Martin'  
**Subject:** RE: LADOJ Public Records Request

No problem, thank you for following up.

Shannon

**From:** Scarlett Andrews Martin [mailto:scarlettashlen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 5:04 PM  
**To:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Subject:** Re: LADOJ Public Records Request

Thank you, Ms. Dirmann for your attention to this request.

Best,

Scarlett

Scarlett A. Martin

On 15 November 2016 at 18:01, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Scarlett,

Because your three requests total more than 15 different searches over an expansive amount of time, it is taking additional time to collect these records. La. R.S. 44:35 allows for a "determination in writing by the custodian or an estimate of the time reasonably necessary for collection, segregation, redaction, examination, or review of a records request." At this point, I believe we will need an additional 14 days. I am searching across all seven departments in our office, which takes additional staff and hours.

Please know I am making every effort to process your request and will have the response ready as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Shannon Dirmann

Assistant Attorney General

**From:** Scarlett Andrews Martin [mailto:scarlettashlen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 1:24 PM  
**To:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Subject:** Re: LADOJ Public Records Request

Hi Ms. Dirmann,

Thank you for your response. Given the few days that have passed, I wanted to follow up and check on the status.

Thanks in advance for any update you can provide.

Best,

Scarlett A. Martin

On 10 November 2016 at 15:56, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

Hi Scarlett,

Your requests are still being processed. I hope to provide you an update early next week.

Thank you,

Shannon Dirmann

Assistant Attorney General

**From:** Scarlett Andrews Martin [mailto:scarlettashlen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2016 11:19 AM  
**To:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Subject:** Re: LADOJ Public Records Request

Hi Ms. Dirmann,

I would like to follow up on my FOIA request, which was confirmed as received 30 days ago (10/10/2016). Please confirm the status of this request.

Thank you,

Scarlett A. Martin

On 24 October 2016 at 18:29, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

These have been received. Thank you.

**From:** Scarlett Andrews Martin [mailto:scarlettashlen@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 10:25 AM

**To:** Dirmann, Shannon

**Subject:** Re: LADOJ Public Records Request

Thank you, Ms. Dirmann.

Please note the following additions to the request:

**"Any and all contracts for legal representation or legal services that have been submitted for review to the Office of the Attorney General since January 11, 2016."**

AND

**"Any and all documents relating to review of the above-referenced contracts, including but not limited to correspondence with any party to the above-referenced contracts."**

Please let me know if you need additional documentation to add these amendments.

Thank you,

Scarlett A. Martin

On 10 October 2016 at 11:45, Dirmann, Shannon <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov> wrote:

I apologize. I meant to clarify that this email is acknowledging both of your requests for records (one related to hydrocarbons and the other for the Attorney General's travel). I will provide you updates on them as soon as I can.

Thank you,

Shannon

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**From:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2016 10:44 AM  
**To:** 'scarlettashlen@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** LADOJ Public Records Request

Ms. Martin,

Please accept this email as an acknowledgement of the public records request you submitted to our office.

Our office is in the process of determining what records are subject to this request and whether any privileges or exemptions apply. This may take some time. You will be notified within 30 days as to whether records have been located that are responsive and approximately when they will be ready for review.

If our office can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Shannon Dirmann

Assistant Attorney General

Louisiana Department of Justice



P.O. Box 94005

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Phone: (225) 326-6026

Fax: (225) 326-6098

dirmanns@ag.state.la.us

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Alexander R. Bissell  
Attorney-at-Law  
103 Forest Place Cir  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Ms. Shannon Dirmann  
Assistant Attorney General  
Louisiana Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 94005  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
[dirmanns@ag.state.la.us](mailto:dirmanns@ag.state.la.us)

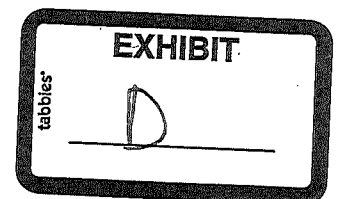
January 24, 2017

Dear Ms. Dirmann:

On behalf of my client, Ms. Scarlett A. Martin, I am writing to protest your actions denying her rights to access the public records she requested in early October, 2016, seeking the following:

Under the Louisiana Public Records Act § 44:1 et seq., Ms. Martin requested copies of the following records from the Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry's immediate office:

- Records related to Attorney General Landry's travel to any and all conferences, speaking engagements and public appearances during his tenure in this office to date. This information should include:
  - The dates, destinations and purpose of that travel;
  - Staff and/or family members who accompanied the Attorney General on those trips;
  - Records for travel (air, rental cars, rail or water travel), including itemized receipts;
  - Lodging records, including itemized receipts;
  - Meal records, including itemized receipts.
- The Attorney General's office calendar showing in-office meetings from the day he took office to the current date;
- Records showing all contracts awarded to attorneys and/or law firms during Mr. Landry's tenure to represent the state and any state entities in litigation;
- Records showing all vehicles purchased by the Louisiana Department of Justice during Attorney General Landry's tenure, including record of:
  - Each vehicle's make and model,
  - The number of vehicles,
  - The name and address of the vendor for each vehicle.



Alexander R. Bissell  
Attorney-at-Law  
103 Forest Place Cir  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

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Under the Louisiana Public Records Act § 44:1 et seq., Ms. Martin requested copies of the following records from the Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry during his tenure in office:

- All correspondence between Attorney General Jeff Landry (or any members of the Attorney General's office during Attorney General Landry's tenure in office including Shane Guidry, Elizabeth Murrill, and Bill Stiles, and any representatives of companies (and/or trade associations representing such companies) involved in the exploration for and production of hydrocarbons, including the following and any of their members:
  - Louisiana Oil and Gas Association and any of its representatives, including Don Briggs;
  - Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association and any of its representatives, including Chris John;
  - Louisiana Association of Business Interests and any of its representatives including Brian Landry;
  - Kyle Ruckert of Bold Strategies and;
  - Chester Cedars.
- All correspondence between Attorney General Jeff Landry (or any members of the Attorney General's office during Attorney General Landry's tenure in office) and Louisiana Lawsuit Abuse Watch or any of its representatives, including its Executive Director, Melissa Landry.

Ms. Martin also narrowed the above request to cover correspondence including letter and email to the Attorney General himself and to Executive Assistant Sarah Romero Mule.

You acknowledged each request, going so far as to ask yourself for 30 days over and beyond the law's allowance. Ms. Martin kindly agreed to your request because of the expense of her Open Records Request. At the end of that 30 day period, she contacted you and was told by you that you would have this information within about 14 days. That was in mid-November, some 60 days ago.

Since then, Ms. Martin has transacted with you to procure the contracts portion of her request from you and is appreciative that you worked with her to receive that. However, you and perhaps others in your office have now gone woefully past the bounds of Louisiana State Law addressing Open Records.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the Louisiana Department of Justice under the leadership of Attorney General Jeff M. Landry has no interest in

Alexander R. Bissell  
Attorney-at-Law  
103 Forest Place Cir  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

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transparency and accessibility to public records by the people. Gross negligence of the law and disregard for the people deserve immediate remedy with full and open access to Ms. Martin and/or her agents. Otherwise, we are prepared to seek action as allowed under Louisiana State Law and other means.

Please fulfill her request immediately.

Sincerely,

Alexander R. Bissell  
Attorney-at-Law  
103 Forest Place Circle  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
(615) 730-0942  
[alexrbissell@gmail.com](mailto:alexrbissell@gmail.com)

Cc: Honorable Jeff M. Landry, Attorney General

**From:** Dirmann, Shannon DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Public Records Correspondence  
**Date:** February 3, 2017 at 11:04 AM  
**To:** alexrbissell@gmail.com

Mr. Bissell,

I tried to call again today and was able to leave you a message. Please advise on whether the 7 business day timeline is satisfactory for your client.

Sincerely,

Shannon Dirmann  
Assistant Attorney General

---

**From:** Dirmann, Shannon  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:23 PM  
**To:** 'alexrbissell@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** 'Scarlett Andrews Martin'; Barry, Michael; Donovan, Luke  
**Subject:** Public Records Correspondence

Mr. Bissell,

Thank you for your correspondence to our office in which you followed up on Ms. Martin's public records requests (consolidated under tracking number 16-0130). I tried to call you directly, but there was no option to leave a voicemail.

Ms. Martin's request continues to be processed by myself and multiple members of our staff, two of which are CC'd on this email. Ms. Martin's requests total more than 15 different searches over an expansive amount of time. As such, it is taking additional time to collect these records with the staff that we have available. It should also be noted that parts of these searches are being conducted in other Divisions of our office and we are waiting for their searches to be completed.

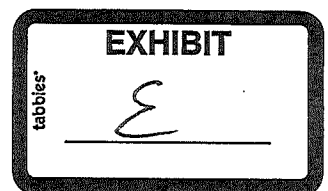
The Louisiana Public Records Act, specifically La. R.S. 44:35, allows for a "determination in writing by the custodian or an estimate of the time reasonably necessary for collection, segregation, redaction, examination, or review of a records request." Pursuant to this provision, I have been in communication with Ms. Martin frequently to notify her of the time needed to produce these records. Your accusatory statements regarding a lack of transparency are not warranted and frankly are offensive, given the amount of energy and hours we have spent processing this request.

At this point, I believe we can produce the first set of documents within 7 business days. Are you and your client amendable to this timeline? That will include contract documents and the Human Resources documents she requested related to travel and vehicles.

I await your response.

Sincerely,

Shannon Dirmann



Assistant Attorney General



**Shannon Dirmann**  
Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division  
Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry  
Phone: (225) 326-6026 Fax: (225) 326-6096  
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**From:** "Dirmann, Shannon" <DirmannS@ag.louisiana.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Records Request 16-0130  
**Date:** February 6, 2017 at 10:46:21 AM CST  
**To:** "alexrbissell@gmail.com" <alexrbissell@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** "Barry, Michael" <BarryM@ag.louisiana.gov>, "Donovan, Luke" <DonovanL@ag.louisiana.gov>, Scarlett Andrews Martin <scarlettashlen@gmail.com>, "Barbalich, Lauren" <BarbalichL@ag.louisiana.gov>

Mr. Bissell,

Thank you for speaking with me this morning. Per our conversation, we agree to produce by this Monday, February 13, 2017 the documents responsive to Ms. Martin's request for contracts. (She seeks documents showing contracts awarded since Attorney General Landry took office on January 11, 2016, as well as documents related to the contracts' review.) We will also produce a response to her request for documents related to the Attorney General's travel, as well as for vehicles purchased since the new administration took office on January 11, 2016.

As I mentioned on the phone, I am expected to begin maternity leave at any time in the next week. Just in case, I have CC'd Lauren Barbalich, Michael Barry and Luke Donovan in our office. They are helping process this request and can correspond with you should I be unavailable.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office again if you have additional questions.

Thank you,

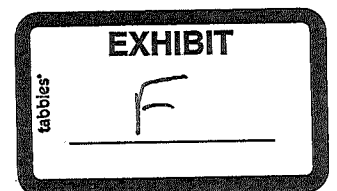


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From: Barbalich, Lauren BarbalichL@ag.louisiana.gov  
Subject: RE: Public Records Request 16-0130  
Date: March 2, 2017 at 2:49 PM  
To: Alexander Bissell alexrbissell@gmail.com  
Cc: Donovan, Luke DonovanL@ag.louisiana.gov, Barry, Michael BarryM@ag.louisiana.gov, Johnson, Venise JohnsonV@ag.louisiana.gov

Mr. Bissell,

I apologize for the delay in response. As you know, Shannon is out on maternity leave so we're doing our best to make sure we pick up right where she left off on these files. We do have the travel & vehicle records ready for you. However, the contracts are taking a bit more time because our law clerks are having to go and print out the contracts one by one. Would you like us to produce to you what we currently have ready for you? Or do you want to wait until it's all ready?

Thank you,



**Lauren F. Barbalich**  
**Project Management Officer, Administrative Services**  
**Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry**  
**Phone: (225) 326-6739**  
**[www.AG.JeffLandry.com](http://www.AG.JeffLandry.com)**

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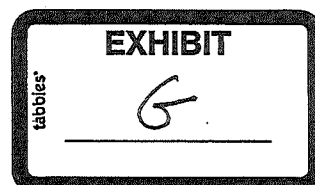
**From:** Alexander Bissell [mailto:alexrbissell@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:09 AM  
**To:** Barbalich, Lauren  
**Cc:** Donovan, Luke; Barry, Michael  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Records Request 16-0130

Dear Ms. Barbalich,

I spoke to you last week about this very briefly. Ms. Shannon Dirmann had assured me that we would receive the documents from our FOIA request on Monday February 13, 2017. That date has come and gone without a response to the request. Please let me know when we can expect this request to be fulfilled. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alexander R. Bissell  
Attorney at Law  
(615)730-0942  
[alexrbissell@gmail.com](mailto:alexrbissell@gmail.com)



Begin forwarded message: