

ARTICLES FOR 5-4-17 ROUNDUP

RUTLEDGE NAMES NEW LEADERSHIP OF CIVIL DEPARTMENT

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today named Monty Baugh of Little Rock as deputy attorney general for the Civil Department and Renae Hudson of Sherwood as senior assistant attorney general joining Christine Cryer of Little Rock and Colin Jorgensen of Little Rock in that leadership role.

“I am excited to welcome Monty Baugh as the deputy attorney general of the Civil Department,” said Attorney General Rutledge. “Monty’s impressive background will bring a fresh perspective to the office, and I know his skills as a litigator will enhance the abilities of the top-notch attorneys who are already doing exceptional work. I also want to congratulate Renae Hudson as she joins Christine Cryer and Colin Jorgensen as senior assistant attorneys general in the department. These three, along with Monty, make a tremendous leadership team with years of experience.”

Baugh has spent time practicing in the areas of business law, commercial litigation, insurance defense and civil defense for county and municipal law enforcement agencies. Baugh began his law career clerking for former Justice Annabelle Clinton-Imber on the Arkansas Supreme Court and has been in private practice for over eight years, including six years as a solo practitioner. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arkansas and is a licensed professional engineer, having practiced in that field for 17 years before his admission to the Arkansas Bar. Baugh earned a Juris Doctor with honors from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

Hudson has been serving an assistant attorney general in the Civil Department since 2003 and also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Bowen School of Law where she teaches litigation skills. In addition, she serves as a faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy Training Program offering litigation training to attorneys from across the State. Hudson graduated with honors from Arkansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a Juris Doctor from the Bowen School of Law.

Before joining the Attorney General’s office in 2004, Cryer spent three years in private practice representing insurance companies and their insureds in state and federal court, as well as claims before the Arkansas Workers’ Compensation Commission. She received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from UA Little Rock and a Juris Doctor from the Bowen School of Law.

Jorgensen joined the staff in 2007 after having worked as an associate at the firm Wright Lindsey Jennings in Little Rock from 2004 to 2006. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor’s degree in political science, he earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan.

Handling approximately 500 cases each year in state and federal courts, the Civil Department’s attorneys serve as counsel representing agencies, officials, boards and commissions when any are named as defendants in civil lawsuits. The lawyers also initiate lawsuits to protect the interests of the State.

ATTORNEY GENERAL DONOVAN ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY INITIATIVE REGARDING CAREERS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Attorney General Thomas J. Donovan Jr., announced the launch of a new community initiative to inform Vermont's youth about criminal justice and law enforcement careers, such as prosecution and advocacy on behalf of victims. Lawyers, law enforcement officers and advocates from the Attorney General's Office will be presenting information to Technical Center students around the State regarding the work of the Criminal Division in the Attorney General's Office.

Vermont law enforcement agencies are consistently seeking to fill vacancies. The Technical Center programs provide a valuable service to Vermont and Vermonters in educating our youth in fields where there is a substantial need for new workers. Among the various programs offered by the Centers around the state are law enforcement programs.

"Our goal is to let Vermont students know about career opportunities right here in Vermont. The criminal justice system has many opportunities and through this initiative we hope to connect students with potential careers." Attorney General Donovan stated.

The presentations by experienced law enforcement professionals will provide information regarding careers in law enforcement and related fields. The initiative will include presentations to the River Valley Technical Center and the Burlington technical Center during the first week in May. There will be a presentation to the Stafford Technical Center later that month.

AG SUES FEDS FOR UNPAID OIL AND GAS ROYALTIES

By Kevin Robinson-Avila / Journal Staff Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas sued the federal government on Wednesday over unpaid oil and gas royalties, while also announcing a new investigation into "anti-competitive practices" in the cattle industry.

Balderas and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra jointly filed suit in U.S. District Court in California against the U.S. Department of the Interior for postponing implementation of a rule that updates how federal royalties on oil, gas and coal extraction is calculated. The rule took effect in January, but in February the Interior Department delayed it until a legal challenge by industry groups is resolved.

The attorneys general say that decision is blocking payment of about \$18 million in royalties owed to their states, including \$4.9 million for New Mexico.

The rule, approved through a five-year public process, closed loopholes, such as prohibiting coal companies from paying royalties on the value of inventory sold to sister companies rather than on the value of a final sale to end users. Last year, Interior estimated the rule would generate up to \$85 million in new federal revenue annually.

The suit says postponing a rule already in effect with no public outreach or explanation is illegal.

Industry spokesmen, however, say the Interior Department's action is prudent to ensure it's in the public's best interest.

"The attorney general's suit seems premature and misguided, since the DOI has yet to make a final decision on how to move forward," said New Mexico Oil and Gas Association spokesman Robert McEntyre. "It's in everyone's interest to have a regulatory environment that encourages further development of New Mexico's natural resources."

SCHUETTE SECURES FORFEITURE OF STATE-FUNDED PENSIONS FROM EIGHT DETROIT PRINCIPALS CONVICTED OF BRIBERY

Contact: Andrea Bitely, Megan Hawthorne; (517) 373-8060

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced that he has secured the forfeiture of the state-paid portions of the pensions held by eight of the Detroit principals convicted last year of accepting federal program bribery in a \$2.7-million kickback scheme that resulted in charges against former Detroit Public Schools vendor Norman Shy and 13 district officials.

The judgement was entered by Wayne County Circuit Court Chief Judge Robert Colombo. The state paid pension contributions were forfeit which means they will no longer be paid to the individuals, and those individuals that owe repayment, will experience a further reduction in their pensions until full re-payment has been made.

"The future of our state depends on the education of the next generation. School leaders have an inherent duty to provide and protect our students, not steal from them," said Schuette.

Motion for Forfeiture and Entry of Default Judgment was granted on Friday, April 28, 2017 as to the following Detroit Principals:

Clara Flowers: Pension reduced by \$1416.29 less per month or \$16,995.48 per year and re-pay to State \$27,037.60 in overpayments as result of the forfeiture

Beverly Campbell: Pension reduced by \$3439.67 per month or \$41,276.04 per year and re-pay to State \$89,294.42 in overpayments as result of forfeiture

Stanley Johnson: Pension reduced by \$1472.24 per month or \$17,666.88 per year

Ronald Alexander: Pension reduced by \$1,067.22 per month or \$12,806.64 per year and re-pay \$38,139.17 in overpayments as result of forfeiture

Tia Von Moore-Patton: pension reduced by \$1459.23 per month or \$17,510.76 per year

Ronnie Sims: Pension reduced by \$1,066.90 per month or \$12,802.80 per year

Clara Smith: Pension reduced by \$1822.46 per month or \$21,869.52 per year and re-payment of \$33,924.83 in overpayments as a result of the forfeiture

Willye Pearsall: Pension reduced by \$1325.76 per month or \$15,909.12 per year and re-payment of \$70,352.30 in overpayments as a result of the forfeiture.

A previously entered stipulated order of forfeiture for James Hearn reduced his pension by \$1560.95 per month or \$18,731.40 per year.

The total amount the nine principals are required to suspend is:

Monthly: \$14,630.72

Annual: \$156,837.24

Amount to be re-paid to State/MPSERS :\$ 258,748.32

Michigan law provides for the forfeiture of public employee retirement benefits paid by the State into the retirement fund if a member or retiree is convicted of or enters a guilty plea to a felony that is related to their service as a public employee. The confiscated funds cannot be used to pay restitution.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MIKE HUNTER ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF THE OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON OPIOID ABUSE

Commission aims to halt state's opioid epidemic

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter was joined by Sen. AJ Griffin and Rep. Tim Downing today at a press conference to announce legislation to form the Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse.

The commission will be created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, authored by Sen. Griffin and Rep. Downing.

According to the resolution, the nine-member committee is chaired by Attorney General Hunter and members will study, evaluate and make recommendations for changes to state policy, rules or statutes to better combat opioid abuse in Oklahoma.

Members will present proposed recommendations for legislation to Governor Mary Fallin, Senate Pro Tem Mike Schulz and Speaker of the House of Representatives Charles McCall by Dec. 1.

Attorney General Hunter said Oklahomans are dying and the state must present a unified front and bring multiple stakeholders in to find ways to reverse the nightmarish trend.

“Oklahoma is currently in the midst of an opioid abuse epidemic that is reaching a crisis level,” Attorney General Hunter said. “Over the last three years there have been 2,684 reported opioid related deaths in the state.

“This commission will chart a path forward by looking at every avenue to save lives.”

The nine-member commission will represent the health community, local law enforcement, the Oklahoma Legislature, the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the chair of the District Attorney’s Council and the director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Control.

Oklahoma State Senator AJ Griffin said the members will go beyond legislation and look at all areas in order to improve.

“In addition to policy changes, the commission members and I will also be looking at prevention, interdiction and access to treatment,” said Sen. Griffin, R-Guthrie. “One death because of substance abuse is too many. I appreciate Attorney General Hunter’s commitment to changing the lives of many Oklahomans.”

Oklahoma State Representative Tim Downing said with the state facing a rise in the number of overdose deaths due to opioids, the commission will also look to raise awareness and educate the public.

“I am honored to be working closely with Attorney General Hunter on this initiative,” said Rep. Downing. “The commission plans to look at everything from how many prescriptions are being handed out by doctors, how many are sold on the streets, establish ways to better educate the public and come up with a viable disposal solution,”

The appointees to the commission will be named as followed:

Gov. Fallin will appoint two members.

A licensed practicing medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy.
A pharmacist licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Pharmacy.
Speaker McCall will appoint two members.

A member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives.
A dentist licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry.
Senate Pro Tem Mike Schulz will appoint two members.

A member of the Oklahoma State Senate.
A registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS RECEIVE UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING TO PREVENT OPIOID ADDICTION UNDER NEW AG HEALEY INITIATIVE

\$700,000 Awarded to 41 Organizations Across the State for School-Based and Community Prevention Programs

BRAINTREE – School children in districts across Massachusetts will receive an unprecedented investment in evidence-based substance use prevention education under a new initiative announced today by Attorney General Maura Healey to tackle a significant unmet need in the state’s battle against the ongoing opioid crisis.

In announcements across the state in the coming days with local leaders, educators, students and law enforcement partners, AG Healey will distribute \$700,000 in funding directly to school districts, nonprofits and community organizations to fund two years of prevention programming to 41 grantees in Massachusetts.

“We will never get control of this epidemic until prevention becomes a priority,” said AG Healey. “With these grants, we will partner with schools and community organizations to empower young people and protect the next generation from falling victim to this public health crisis. But, these grants are only a start, we must continue to address this unmet need.”

The AG’s Office announced the statewide grants program at a launch event at the Braintree South Middle School with Braintree Mayor Joe Sullivan, Superintendent of Schools Frank Hackett, Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey, along with students and representatives from the recovery community. The AG’s Office will also host regional announcement events this week in Salem, Barnstable, Gardner, and Marlborough to highlight the implementation of local prevention programs for young people across the state.

“This grant is greatly appreciated and will help our families of Braintree,” said Mayor Sullivan.

“The roots of opiate addictions often stretch back into high school. We know that from investigating fatal overdoses – 58 so far this year,” Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said. “As shocking as it seems, this education and prevention work has to be targeted at kids. To break this epidemic long term, tomorrow’s addictions need to be prevented right now. Braintree and Weymouth have been working hard on this problem for a long time, it is good to see that work recognized with this grant.”

“It is so critical that we enhance the preventative measures to try to stop addiction before it starts,” said Joanne Peterson, Founder and Executive Director of Learn to Cope. “Prevention has to begin in the classroom with involvement from local communities. I thank AG Healey for this initiative and am pleased to see additional funding go toward this important work to provide cities and towns with the support, education, and resources they need.”

AG Healey’s Youth Opioid Prevention Grant Program will provide funding over two years to 25 school districts as well as law enforcement agencies, nonprofits, and community health organizations. The programs will deliver evidence-based prevention programs to students at all grade levels about the dangers of opioid and other substance use. The AG’s Office announced the grant program in November after reaching a landmark settlement with CVS over its opioid dispensing practices.

In Norfolk County, the Weymouth Police Department will implement an evidence-based, substance use prevention curriculum designed for middle school students. Braintree Public Schools will use funding develop curriculum and programming for opioid awareness and prevention education for fifth grade students, and will also use the funding to provide additional professional development opportunities for the district’s staff, and work with families in the community on ways to prevent substance use.

“We are extremely grateful to Attorney General Maura Healey and her office for awarding the Braintree Public Schools with the Youth Opioid Prevention grant to improve and expand educational awareness about substance use,” said Melonie Bennett, Director of Physical Education and Health for the Braintree Public Schools. “The grant provides critical funding for the Braintree Public Schools as we continue our collaborative efforts with Mayor Sullivan and the Braintree

Community Partnership on Substance Use to develop effective awareness programming and support throughout the town. The funds will significantly impact our entire school-community for years to come, and we look forward to our continued partnership with Attorney General Healey and her team.”

The programs under this grant will run through April 2019 and are being funded by settlements the AG’s Office reached with CVS Pharmacy in September 2016 and later with Walgreens in January, totaling \$700,000. Following the announcement of the grant program, the AG’s Office received 120 applications totaling nearly \$4 million in requested funding from schools, community health centers, municipalities, police departments, and nonprofits.

Young people are particularly vulnerable to the risks of substance use. Ninety percent of all adults struggling with addiction started using when they were under the age of 18, and 50 percent were under the age of 15. Studies have shown that effective substance use education and prevention programming can significantly decrease the risk of addiction among young people.

In Massachusetts, opioid overdoses kill more than five people every day. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health estimates that 1,979 people – the highest number ever recorded in the state and a 13 percent increase year-over-year – died from opioid-related overdoses in 2016. Massachusetts has lost over 5,000 people to opioid overdoses in the last three years.

The Youth Opioid Prevention Grant program is another way AG Healey is working to address the addiction crisis in Massachusetts. The AG’s Office is looking at a host of other practices, including marketing by pharmaceutical companies, criminal drug trafficking, and barriers to substance use treatment. The AG’s Office also continues fund affordable access to Narcan for all first responders.

FERGUSON FILES FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS CASE OVER SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

AG alleges Quincy onion-packing shed retaliated against women who reported mistreatment

SPOKANE — Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced today that he is accusing a Quincy agricultural company and one of its managers of violating Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Washington Law Against Discrimination over the sexual harassment of female workers, discriminatory hiring practices and retaliation against workers who reported the improper conduct.

In a complaint filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Ferguson alleges that the operation and policies of the Grant County company, Horning Brothers LLC, allowed one of its foremen, Hermilo Cruz, to sexually harass and discriminate against female employees for several years.

The complaint alleges that Horning Brothers knew or should have known about Cruz’s conduct.

The complaint accuses the company and Cruz of retaliating against employees who rejected Cruz's advances or complained about his conduct. Employees who reported the conduct were reprimanded, discharged or not rehired the following season.

"Low-wage agricultural workers are part of a vulnerable population with limited resources. They deserve to be heard," Ferguson said. "No woman should be forced to accept sexual harassment as a condition of her employment."

As of 2015, there were nearly 100,000 agricultural workers in Washington state, with women comprising about 28 percent of them. Sexual harassment in the agricultural industry is "an occupational hazard" that has a profound impact on women's ability to work safely and productively in the industry, according to the University of Washington School of Public Health's Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety & Health Center.

Horning Brothers operates an onion packing shed in Quincy, where Cruz is the foreman. The complaint alleges that since at least 2012, the company and Cruz only hired women to sort onions on the packing line, and limited the hiring of women for other positions.

The Attorney General's investigation began last year, and involved interviews with multiple witnesses and victims.

The case was referred to the AGO by the Northwest Justice Project.

Multiple sorters were allegedly subjected to unwelcome, and sometimes severe and pervasive sexual advances from Cruz, including requests for sex, comments about their appearance, overt sexual gestures, groping and unwanted touching. The complaint also alleges that Cruz required or attempted to require some women to have sex with him to ensure they would continue to be employed.

Cruz and Horning Brothers also are accused of reprimanding, firing or failing to rehire employees who rejected Cruz's advances or complained to others — including the owners of the company — about the foreman's behavior.

The Attorney General's Office is accusing the company and Cruz of multiple violations of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Washington Law Against Discrimination for discriminatory and segregated hiring practices, sexual harassment, aiding and abetting illegal conduct and retaliation against employees.

The complaint seeks court orders to halt the illegal practices, damages for victims and costs and fees for the state's lawsuit.

Wing Luke Civil Rights Unit Chief Colleen Melody and Assistant Attorney General Patricio Marquez are leading the case. Any person who believes they have information about this case should contact the Civil Rights Unit at 1-844-375-1217 or by email at civilrights@atg.wa.gov.

The Wing Luke Civil Rights Unit was created in 2015 to protect the rights of all Washington residents by enforcing state and federal anti-discrimination laws. It is named for Wing Luke, who served as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Washington in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He went on to become the first person of color elected to the Seattle City Council and the first Asian-American elected to public office in the Pacific Northwest.

The Washington Law Against Discrimination prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or honorably discharged veteran or military status.

More information about Washington's civil rights laws in employment is available at <http://www.hum.wa.gov/employment>. Individuals who believe they have been victims of employment discrimination can file a complaint with the Human Rights Commission at <http://www.hum.wa.gov/discrimination-complaint> or can contact the Office of the Attorney General at civilrights@atg.wa.gov.

STATE REGULATORS SUE OCC OVER FINTECH CHARTER

By Lalita Clozel

WASHINGTON — After raising vociferous objections to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's plans to offer a fintech charter, state regulators on Wednesday sued the federal agency, arguing it lacks the legal authority.

“The OCC’s action is an unprecedented, unlawful expansion of the chartering authority given to it by Congress for national banks,” John Ryan, the president and CEO of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, said in a press release. “If the OCC is allowed to proceed with the creation of a special purpose nonbank charter, it will set a dangerous precedent that any federal agency can act beyond the legal limits of its authority.”

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, lays out the state regulators’ fundamental complaint that they've had from the beginning against the OCC’s charter, namely that the agency does not have statutory authority to create a special-purpose charter.

Citing the National Bank Act, the bank supervisor group argued that the OCC has the authority to charter only those firms engaged in the “business of banking.” The agency would need “specific congressional approval” to create a charter for nondepository institutions, as the OCC plans to do, the group said.

“The OCC’s proposed action ignores Congress, seeks to preempt state consumer protection laws, harms markets and innovation, and puts taxpayers at risk of inevitable fintech failures,” Ryan said.

Beyond the CSBS, a number of state regulators have been vocally opposed to the fintech charter, including New York's superintendent for financial services, Maria T. Vullo. They have argued that the charter would preempt their authority to impose consumer protection requirements, such as usury caps, on fintech companies that might obtain the national charter.

John W. Ryan, president and CEO of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. The proposed federal charter "will set a dangerous precedent," warns John Ryan of the state regulators' trade group.

The OCC's initiative has also sparked opposition from consumer protection groups and community banks.

Comptroller of the Currency Thomas Curry has responded to critics that the OCC has the legal power to offer the charter, and that it will ensure that fintechs obtaining it will face banklike standards. The agency plans to impose capital requirements and ask firms to submit financial inclusion plans in the spirit of the Community Reinvestment Act, as well as resolution plans.

Since first floating the idea of the fintech charter last year, the OCC has issued several new updates, open for public comment, indicating how it plans to implement the charter and regulate the fintech firms under it.

For fintech companies, the national charter could be an opportunity to skip the state-by-state licensing system and only deal with a single federal regulator and set of requirements.

But states argue that they are better positioned to observe the risks and opportunities of the growing fintech industry, and that the fintech charter would strip them of their ability to protect consumers within their borders.

"State regulators already supervise a vibrant financial services marketplace that includes nonbanks and banks," Ryan said. "That regulatory structure has produced a robust platform for innovation."

Several states have pledged to better coordinate among themselves to facilitate the licensing process and disparate regulatory requirements faced by fintech firms.

"Moving forward," Ryan said, "state regulators will continue to streamline regulation and automate licensing across state lines, ensuring the system will work even better for state-licensed companies and consumers while protecting taxpayers."

KAMALA HARRIS RIPS UP THE SCRIPT

By Maeve Reston

Los Angeles -- For someone with Kamala Harris' star power and potential, there's a time-honored script for how to behave as a novice senator. It's the same rule Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Al Franken and others followed as high-profile freshmen: They were seen and not heard. They kept their heads down, learned the byzantine procedures and traditions of the institution and, above all else, attracted as little attention to themselves – and their future ambitions – as possible.

But in the age of Donald Trump, Harris is tossing out the rulebook.

-- Kamala Harris

"Local law enforcement is strapped," she said, standing outside a Syrian restaurant. "They barely have enough resources to respond to the domestic violence call, the homicide call, the gang enforcement call. ... Now we're going to have an administration in Washington, D.C., that says local law enforcement must enforce immigration policy -- new immigration policy that says we're going to lower the bar in terms of who gets deported? It's outrageous. It's extreme."

But was it illegal? She was pressed on that question the next day by reporters after she attended a policy forum on immigration and struck a more cautious tone that served as a reminder of the lawyerly approach she still takes from time to time in her new job.

"I'll say this," she said, her voice rising. "When we start knocking on people's doors, knocking on their door because we suspect they may have committed a crime, and on that basis we start deporting them, hard-working families -- dividing families, and separating families -- it's certainly immoral."

The senator, who had just met with the Los Angeles County sheriff and immigrant aid workers, told reporters she wanted to convey a message to all the "law-abiding" undocumented immigrants who are anxious and fearful under the new rules.

My word to these families," she said, "is 'don't let anyone take your pride from you.'"

Federal courts later blocked Trump's ban and then placed a temporary restraining order on the implementation of significant parts of a subsequent order from the White House.

Harris may be aiming for a high profile in Washington but she hasn't always been so outspoken. As California's attorney general, the perennial criticism of her was that she was too cautious when it came to matters that might create controversy in a future political campaign, a criticism that recalls one that long dogged Clinton during her presidential bids. Harris' longtime friends and advisers say that was more about the restrictions of needing to be "an attorney's attorney." Once she claimed the mantle of senator, they say, the gloves were off.

In California, Harris has been viewed as a rising star on the Democratic bench ever since she burst on the political scene.

She was born in Oakland to Jamaican and Indian immigrants who later divorced when she was 5. She was raised by her physician mother in Berkeley with her sister Maya, who went on to be a civil rights attorney and adviser to Hillary Clinton. (The girls visited their father, a Stanford University economics professor, in Palo Alto on weekends).

Harris's best friend since kindergarten, Stacey Johnson-Batiste, told me Harris has always had a fierce, strong-willed quality about her -- one that she has seen on display during her friend's first weeks in Washington. Johnson-Batiste recalled Harris defending her from a bully in kindergarten by confronting him directly.

"She stood up to him, even then, and he picked up a rock and hit her in the head," Johnson-Batiste said. "Kamala has been this way ever since we were kids. She speaks out for what's right; she's always had a really good moral compass."

After attending Howard University, Harris went to UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco and built her resume as a prosecutor in Alameda County and San Francisco, trying gritty cases that included crimes against children, assault and murder.

"I knew then, in the mid-1990s, that she was on her way."

-- Stacey Johnson-Batiste, Harris' childhood friend

Johnson-Batiste lived with Harris in Oakland during those years when she was a young attorney. "I would see her every morning, suited, with her briefcase, walking with a purpose up to the courthouse," she said. "I knew then, in the mid-1990s, that she was on her way."

When Harris began dabbling in politics and decided to run for District Attorney of San Francisco in 2003, she counted the powerful longtime state Assembly Speaker Willie Brown among her mentors. Brown and Harris had dated years before, and her opponent, incumbent district attorney Terence Hallinan, tried to paint her as a part of his political machine. She defeated Hallinan, and, at 39, became the first woman to hold that job.