

This material is part of a collection that documents the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation perpetrated against Alaska's women research scientists by their supervisor, with full knowledge (and arguably, "tacit approval") of their federal employer, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Subject: Ongoing conflict in Fairbanks
From: "Bower, Cindy" <Cindy.Bower@ars.usda.gov>
Date: Fri, 4 Dec 2009 16:12:48 -0700
To: "Whalen, Maureen" <Maureen.Whalen@ars.usda.gov>

Dr. Whalen,

As you are likely aware, I am one of the three female scientists in Alaska who currently have EEOC complaints against the Agency. Dr. Lori Winton resigned from the ARS and Dr. Nancy Robertson was recently transferred to a new research leader. However, I am still working for the ARS with Dr. Alberto Pantoja as my supervisor, despite my grievances, informal EEO complaint, formal EEO complaint, and current EEOC complaint against him.

I met with Dr. Pantoja today (04 Dec. 2009) for over an hour concerning an ethical issue (co-authorship for techs), which remains unresolved. It was suggested that I contact PWA administrative personnel for clarification. Unfortunately, Dr. Andrew Hammond and Dr. Bob Matteri were both named as Respondents in my original EEO complaints, so it would be a clear conflict of interest to ask either of them to rule on an issue that could further damage my career.

I am seeking your guidance concerning who to contact for help in resolving the current authorship conflict before my abstract (due December 11th) is rejected by my supervisor and my subsequent conference travel is denied.

Sorry to be bringing this to your attention, but I appreciate any help you can give me in this matter. Thanks.

Cindy

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Maureen Whalen received this email and chose to engage in retaliation against me by cc-ing my supervisor in her response.

Most (if not all) Ph.D. level women have experienced discrimination and harassment because of their gender. I will forever wonder why women who have risen through the ranks in the USDA Agricultural Research Service stop acting ethically when they see other women being subjected to unlawful abuses by their male supervisors.