



Appointed Attorney General Xavier Becerra violates state law by filming campaign commercials in State Court Building

Dave Jones seeks substantial civil penalties for actions that also violate the penal code and demands that illegal ads be taken off air

Today, elected Insurance Commissioner and candidate for Attorney General Dave Jones filed complaints with the Attorney General's office and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) against Appointed Attorney General Xavier Becerra for unlawful use of public resources.

Becerra blatantly violated state law by filming significant portions of at least four campaign commercials in the Stanley Mosk State Library and Courts building in Sacramento. Becerra's TV ads show him striding purposefully through the hallway of the building and pretending to argue a case in the august courtroom where the California Supreme Court and Third District Appellate Court hold session. Becerra also used a campaign photograph taken inside this courtroom for a campaign mailer that was recently sent to voters.

Becerra violated California Government Code 8314 which states in part:

(a) It is unlawful for any elected state or local officer, including any state or local appointee, employee, or consultant, to use or permit others to use public resources for a campaign activity, or personal or other purposes which are not authorized by law.

The code unequivocally states that the Attorney General, any District Attorney or some City Attorneys can seek damages equaling "three times the value of the unlawful use of public resources." In this case, the value of the campaign ads is what Becerra has paid to produce and air them. Treble damages could thus exceed \$2.4 million.

Jones is requesting that an independent Special Counsel immediately be appointed to investigate the actions of Mr. Becerra. Jones also demands that the Becerra campaign immediately suspend broadcast of these illegally produced ads - and that all stations currently airing them immediately cease doing so.

"Mr Becerra is charged with upholding the law and instead has violated the very law he is sworn to uphold, in a willful violation of the public's trust," stated Jones. "The staging of political ads in the very courtroom used by the California Supreme Court, takes Mr. Becerra's politicization of his office to a new and jarring level. No one is above the law and anyone who believes he is, is not fit to hold the office of Attorney General."

Under Penal Code Sections 424 and 504 an official found to have used public resources for personal gain, which includes campaigns, may be prosecuted for a felony and face penalties including jail time and removal from office.

Becerra's actions are the continuation of a disturbing pattern of politicization of the Attorney General's office. Becerra, a longtime Washington D.C. politician, has staffed the upper echelon of his administration with political aides instead of experienced attorneys qualified to practice law in California. Becerra himself had not been an active member of the California State Bar for 24 years when he was appointed to office. Mr. Becerra was appointed to fill a vacancy from January 2017-December 2018 and has never been elected to statewide office.

View the legal documents [here](#).