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Another former Title IX employee at Baylor files complaint against school

By **David Barron** Published 3:02 pm, Thursday, January 19, 2017



Patty Crawford, Baylor University's first full-time Title IX coordinator, talks in her office in Waco, Texas. Crawford has resigned over a disagreement in her role overseeing changes at the Baptist school following claims it mishandled sexual assault cases over several years.

A second former employee of Baylor University's Title IX compliance office said this week that she also filed a complaint against the university, citing staffing deficiencies and what she described as the university's reluctance to support staff members investigating complaints against Baylor athletes and other students.

Gabrielle Lyons, who worked as an investigator under former Title IX coordinator Patty Crawford, told ESPN that she went through a third party to file a complaint against the school in April 2016, about six months after leaving her job at Baylor.

Baylor has been critical of Crawford, who resigned last October and filed a complaint with the Department of Education regarding what she said was Baylor's continued violation of Title IX enforcement requirements. As part of that effort to refute Crawford's criticisms, the school said that an investigator had left the department after expressing frustration with Crawford's direction.

Lyons, however, told ESPN that she was the employee who resigned and that she did so "because of Baylor's non-compliance" and was not critical of Crawford's efforts at Baylor.

Dallas attorney Rogge Dunn, who represents Crawford and Dunn, said Lyons' comments enforce Crawford's allegations against Baylor.

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"It reinforces the evidence presented to the Office of Civil Rights (by Crawford)," Dunn said in an email. "The evidence Lyons gave to the OCR increases the chances that the Department of Education will take action against Baylor for violating Title IX."

Dunn said Lyons' comments also "will provide additional evidence for the victims who have sued Baylor and increase their chances of winning those lawsuits."

Baylor told ESPN this week that Lyons never voiced complaints while she was working at Baylor and that the school upgraded its Title IX enforcement efforts after Lyons' departure.

The Title IX enforcement controversy at Baylor led to the dismissal of football coach Art Briles, the demotion of president Ken Starr, who eventually resigned, and sanctions against athletic director Ian McCaw, who later resigned.

It also has prompted criticism of Baylor's board of regents by a group of alumni calling itself Bears for Leadership Reform. That group called this week for an overhaul of Baylor's board of regents.

Crawford and Dunn are scheduled to visit Houston on Saturday as keynote speakers for a seminar sponsored by the Houston Bar Association.

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