

# COMPLAINT AGAINST A LAWYER

Return your completed form to:

Alabama State Bar  
Disciplinary Commission  
P. O. Box 671  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0671

## NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPLAINANT

Anders, Christopher  
Last Name, First Name

American Civil Liberties Union, 915 15th  
Street, NW  
Address

canders@aclu.org  
E-mail Address

Washington, D.C. 20005  
City, State, ZIP Code

(202) 675-2308  
Telephone Number(s)

Name & Relationship of Person Who Can Always Contact  
You

Telephone Number(s)

On what date did the alleged ethics violation occur? Jan. 10, 2017

What was your fee arrangement with the attorney? None

## NAME AND ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY AGAINST WHOM YOUR COMPLAINT IS MADE

Sessions, Jefferson Beauregard  
Last Name, First Name

U.S. Department of Justice  
Name of Law Firm Where Attorney is Employed

Robert F. Kennedy Building, 10th Street and  
Constitution Ave., NW  
Address

Washington, D.C. 20530  
City, State, ZIP Code

(202) 514-2000  
Telephone Number(s)

### COMPLAINT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. If you have a complaint against more than one attorney, use a SEPARATE complaint form for each attorney, with the details and relevant exhibits attached to each separate complaint. If you are filing more than one complaint, do not combine your complaint details or your exhibits into one document, or make a specific comment about a complaint filed against another attorney, or it will be returned to you. We will not accept complaints against law firms.
2. Send your complaint with an original notarized signature. We will not accept a copy of your signature.
3. State specifically, on each individual complaint, what the attorney did or failed to do which you believe constitutes unethical conduct, and when it occurred.
4. Attach **COPIES** of any receipts, contracts, or other documents which are important to the complaint, to the back of each individual complaint. Keep your own original documents.
5. Please, do not bind your complaint. Type or write your complaint legibly in ink so it can be copied.
6. You may add more pages to this form if necessary.
7. If you believe that drugs, alcohol or mental disability affected the lawyer's representation, please state what facts support your belief.
8. This matter is confidential at this stage of the proceedings, until the Disciplinary Commission or Board has acted.

9. The Alabama Bar Association does not represent you in this matter but acts to investigate complaints on behalf of the Supreme Court of Alabama.

If there is a court case related to your complaint, please provide the case name and file number, and the lawyer representing you?

N/A

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### **DETAILS OF YOUR COMPLAINT**

Explain your complaint in your own words. Include the following: all important dates, times, places, and court file numbers. Please be advised we cannot return documents submitted to this office. You should retain a copy of all materials you submit. Do not send cassette tapes unless requested by the Bar to do so. The Alabama State Bar cannot be held responsible for lost, misdirected or damaged documents.

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, I am filing this complaint against Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, who is admitted to practice law in the State of Alabama, and has been a member of the Alabama Bar since 1973. Mr. Sessions is the Attorney General of the United States, and violated Rule 8.4 of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct. Mr. Sessions made false statements during sworn testimony on January 10, 2017, and in a subsequent written response to questions on January 17, 2017. I urge the Bar to investigate this complaint, and take any appropriate disciplinary action against Mr. Sessions.

During a hearing considering the nomination of Mr. Sessions for the position of Attorney General before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Sessions was asked by Senator Al Franken whether or not “anyone affiliated with the Trump campaign” had communicated with the Russian government. Mr. Sessions testified that, “I have been called a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign and I did not have communications with the Russians.” The full hearing transcript is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A, and a video recording of the hearing is available at <https://www.c-span.org/video/?420932-1/attorney-general-nominee-jeff-sessions-testifies-confirmation-hearing> and <https://www.c-span.org/video/?420932-101/attorney-general-nominee-jeff-sessions-testifies-confirmation-hearing>.

One week later, on January 17, 2017, Mr. Sessions submitted his written responses to Senator Patrick Leahy’s questions for the record. Senator Leahy asked: “Several of the President Elect’s nominees or senior advisers have Russian ties. Have you been in contact with anyone connected to any part of the Russian government about the 2016 election, either before or after election day?” (emphasis in original). Senator Sessions wrote a one-word response: “No.” The full written submission by Mr. Sessions is attached to this complaint as Exhibit B.

Contradicting Mr. Sessions’ clear statement that “I did not have communications with the Russians” and his subsequent written statement, the Washington Post reported on March 1, 2017 that Mr. Sessions had met twice last year with Russian Ambassador to the United States, Sergey Kislyak, including a private meeting in Mr. Sessions’ Washington office in September. In a statement issued later the same day, Attorney General Sessions did not dispute that the meetings took place, but instead stated that he did not discuss the campaign with the ambassador. He reiterated this characterization during a press conference on March 2, 2017, stating that, “I never had meetings with Russian operatives or Russian intermediaries about the Trump campaign.” Articles from the Washington Post are attached to this complaint as Exhibits C and D.

Rule 8.4(c) of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to “engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.” Specific to Mr. Sessions’ position as a United States Senator at the time of his false statement and his current position as the Attorney General of the United States, the Comment to Rule 8.4 provides, “Lawyers holding public office assume legal responsibilities going beyond those of other citizens. A lawyer’s abuse of public office can suggest an inability to fulfill the professional role of attorney.” Notwithstanding the later unsworn statements from Mr. Sessions more than a month after the hearing, the report of meetings between Mr. Sessions and the Russian ambassador does not square with Mr. Sessions’ sworn testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, particularly where he stated, specifically: “I did not have communications with the Russians.” I urge the Alabama Bar to investigate this complaint and the statements made by Mr. Sessions to determine whether he violated the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct.

I stand ready to provide the Bar any additional information necessary for its investigation.

The attorney you are filing the complaint against will receive a copy of your complaint, and may be asked to respond to your allegations.

I hereby certify that the information I am providing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I will voluntarily appear and testify to the facts in the complaint if called upon by the Alabama State Bar.

*Christy Apple*

Name (signature)

Date: March 9, 2017

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 2017.

*Bani*

NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 02/14/2022

[SEAL]

