

# STATE OF ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36103-4840

PHONE: (334) 242-2997  
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## COMPLAINT

I. **Complainant's Name** : Luther S. Pate IV  
(Person making complaint)

**Address** : 1301 Industrial Park Dr

**City/County/State/Zip** : Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, AL 35401

**Home Phone** : (205) 752-0677

**Place of Employment** : Pate Companies

**Employer's Address** : 1301 Industrial Park Dr

**City/County/State/Zip** : Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, AL 35401

**Work Phone** : (205) 752-0677

**NOTE: PLEASE LIST ONLY ONE (1) RESPONDENT PER COMPLAINT FORM.**  
**PLEASE USE A NEW FORM FOR EACH ADDITIONAL RESPONDENT.**

II. **Respondent's Name and Title/Position Held** : Luther Strange, Attorney General at the time of incident  
(Person against whom complaint is made)

**Address** : 1 Church Street, Suite 500B

**City/County/State/Zip** : Montgomery, Montgomery County, AL 36104

**Home Phone** : (334) 230-0698

**Place of Employment** : State of Alabama Office of Attorney General

**Date of Occurrence** : November 2016-January 2017

**III. Statement of Facts:**

State in your own words the *detailed* facts and the actions of the person named in paragraph II which prompted you to make this complaint. The brief space provided below is not intended to limit your statement of facts. Please feel free to attach additional sheets if necessary. Include relevant dates and time and the names and addresses of other persons whom you believe to have knowledge of the facts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please see "Exhibit A" & "Exhibit B" (Attached)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Section 36-25-4(c) states: "Prior to commencing any investigation, the Commission shall: (1) receive a written complaint which sets forth in detail the specific charges against a respondent, and the factual allegations which support such charges."*

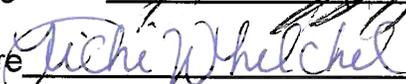
*"The complaint may only be filed by a person who has or persons who have credible and verifiable information supporting the allegations contained in the complaint."*

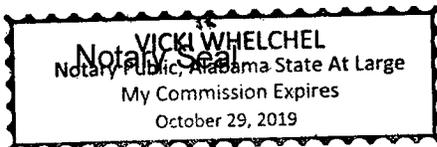
**IV.** I understand that by initiating this complaint I have started proceedings of a legal nature I further understand that such proceedings could include criminal prosecution which could require my testimony before a grand jury and/or during trial. It is my intention to fully cooperate with the staff of the Alabama Ethics Commission in the investigation of this matter I agree to testify, if needed, before the Alabama Ethics Commission and/or any other judicial body necessary to resolve this case. I understand that my failure to fully cooperate in this investigation could result in dismissal of this complaint.

I understand that my name and the other personal information on this form will not be released by anyone at the Alabama Ethics Commission I am aware, however, that at the appropriate time this information may be available to the respondent and/or his/her attorney

I hereby swear or affirm that the information on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Complainant's Signature  Date 8/9/2017

Notary's Signature  Date 8/9/17



Date Notary Commission Expires 10/29/19

**Exhibit A to Ethics Complaint filed by  
Luther S. Pate, IV with respect to Luther Strange**

**III. Statement of Facts**

Luther Strange was sworn in, by placing his hand on the Bible, to his most recent term as the Attorney General of the State of Alabama in January 2015. During that swearing in ceremony, Strange vowed that he would support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Alabama, and faithfully discharge the duties of Attorney General of the State of Alabama. One of the duties of the Attorney General is to investigate and prosecute alleged criminal actions of Alabama's elected officials.

On April 5, 2016, an impeachment resolution was filed against Governor Bentley in the Alabama State Legislature. This resolution prompted the House Judiciary Committee to open an impeachment investigation into the charges on July 7, 2016.

On November 3, 2016, Strange sent a letter to the House Judiciary Committee requesting they put a hold on their active impeachment investigation of Governor Bentley. Strange, as Attorney General, an office charged with investigating and prosecuting alleged criminal actions of Alabama's elected officials, called for a cessation of the investigation into Governor Bentley.

On December 6, 2016, Strange publicly announced his candidacy for the US Senate seat that would soon be vacated by Jeff Sessions.

In mid-December, Governor Bentley began interviewing candidates for the US Senate seat. Twenty qualified candidates were interviewed, including Strange. In accepting and proceeding with the interview, Strange actively engaged in behavior that was in conflict of interest with his duties and obligations as Attorney General. Strange, as Attorney General, was charged with investigating and prosecuting Governor Bentley's alleged criminal conduct.

Instead, in January of 2017 he again called for the investigation to be put on hold and then interviewed with Governor Bentley for an appointment to US Senator.

On February 9, 2017, Governor Bentley appointed Strange to Sessions' former US Senate seat.

Strange violated the Alabama Ethics Laws in each of the following instances:

1. By announcing publicly his desire to be appointed to the US Senate seat vacated by Jeff Sessions, he sent a voiced message to Governor Bentley that he could be manipulated with the same;

2. By accepting and following through with an interview with Governor Bentley for the position of US Senator he engaged in negotiations for a thing of value from an individual whom his office was charged with investigating and prosecuting.

3 By suspending the investigation into Governor Bentley, Luther Strange deceived the citizens of the State of Alabama. Common sense is that a deal was agreed upon by then Governor Bentley and then Attorney General Strange- an unethical and illegal act by the two parties.

Luther Strange violated the public trust and the sworn duties of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Alabama.

**Exhibit B to Ethics Complaint filed by  
Luther S. Pate, IV with respect to Luther Strange**

