

KHOU: With Angela Paxton listening, former chief of staff testifies that Ken Paxton admitted his affair with Laura Olson

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/special-reports/paxton-impeachment-trial/ken-paxton-affair-mistress-laura-olson/285-144ebd73-035c-4aa1-8f6f-73ef80727795>

“Katherine “Missy” Cary, the former chief of staff in the attorney general’s office, testified about how she first learned about her boss's affair with a woman named Laura Olson. That alleged affair is a key part of the impeachment allegations against Paxton.

Who is Laura Olson?

Cary said she was at an Austin restaurant in 2018 when she overheard a woman next to her talking about Paxton in a “very personal” way. She took a picture and told Paxton, who claimed the woman was his real estate agent, Cary testified.

Cary testified that members of Paxton's security detail and travel aides told her that he was having an affair with Olson.

She learned his behavior was causing morale problems in the office and staff members told her that they were "concerned about the general's behavior," Cary said. She said they also complained about the hours they were working and the places they had to go.

Cary added that Angela Paxton was calling the office to try to track down her husband and staffers were feeling “uncomfortable answering those questions.”

Cary said she eventually confronted Paxton who confirmed he was having an affair. Cary said they discussed the political, ethical and legal risks of the affair and she suggested he should tell his wife.

Later that year, Paxton called a meeting of his top staffers where he reportedly confessed the affair with his tearful wife by his side. "My heart broke for her," Cary said.

She testified that she learned the affair was continuing in 2019 and Paxton became "frantically upset" when she brought it up and he raised his voice and was "red in the face."

"He came in and said that he was frustrated and that I didn't understand that he still loved Mrs. Olson," she said.

Texas Tribune: New accusations: Ken Paxton used burner phone, secret email account, fake Uber name to hide ties to Nate Paul

<https://www.texastribune.org/2023/08/16/ken-paxton-impeachment-evidence-senate/>

“In new allegations revealed Wednesday, Texas House investigators accused suspended Attorney General Ken Paxton of engaging in a complex cover-up to hide his relationship with real estate investor Nate Paul as senior aides grew increasingly concerned about Paxton’s willingness to use his office to benefit Paul.

The subterfuge allegedly included Paxton and Paul creating an Uber account under an alias so they could meet each other and so the attorney general could visit the woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair.”

Texas Tribune: Former chief of staff for AG’s office details alarm over Ken Paxton’s alleged affair

<https://www.texastribune.org/2023/09/11/ken-paxton-affair-impeachment-trial/>

“Cary testified that her knowledge of the alleged affair all began in the spring of 2018 when she was eating lunch alone at Galaxy Cafe in Austin. She overheard a woman next to her having a conversation that troubled her, suggesting the woman was conveying “very personal” information about Ken Paxton. Cary said she took her concerns to the attorney general, who said the woman was the real estate agent selling his condo in Austin.

But later that spring, Cary said she saw the same woman at an official event in San Antonio and saw her name tag: Laura Olson.

Cary said she then learned about the relationship from other people in the office and felt “surprised” Paxton had lied to her about who Olson was. The relationship was impacting staff morale, Cary added, with Angela Paxton calling the office to try to track down her husband and staffers feeling “uncomfortable answering those questions.”

Cary eventually had a meeting with Paxton where they discussed the legal and “ethical implications of a secret affair,” she said. Cary said they discussed that such conduct could “open one up to bribery and misuse of office” — allegations at the center of his impeachment.

In that meeting, Cary said Paxton confirmed he was having an affair but did not say whether it was with Olson. He was “contrite and he listened to what I had to say very carefully,” Cary recalled.

In September 2018, Paxton and his wife convened a meeting with top aides where he confessed to the affair, Cary said. She described it as an awkward and emotional meeting. Angela Paxton was “sad and embarrassed” and cried, Cary said. Cary said she hugged Angela Paxton and told her she was sorry this had happened to her.

After that meeting, Cary said, she believed such behavior was “out of [Paxton’s] life for good.”

But months later in 2019, Cary said, Paxton told her the affair was continuing. Cary said Paxton expressed that he “still loved Mrs. Olson” and wanted Cary, as the chief of staff, to “be more accommodating” of it when it came to things like his security detail.

Cary said she told Paxton “quite bluntly it wasn’t my business who he was sleeping with, but that when things boiled over in to the office,” it became a concern to her. In Cary’s telling, that comment enraged Paxton, who turned “red in the face,” raised his voice and stormed out of her office.”