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RE: Referral of Potential Criminal Violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 912,
Regarding Impersonation of United States Senator and Formal Request for Criminal
Investigation

Dear Messrs. and Madam:

It has come to our attention that certain individuals, groups and/or campaigns appear to be directly and blatantly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 912.

As you know, 18 U.S.C. § 912 states:

Whoever falsely assumes or pretends to be an officer or employee acting under the authority of the United States or any department, agency or officer thereof, and acts as such, or in such pretended character demands or obtains any money, paper, document, or thing of value, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

18 U.S.C. § 912 (2025).

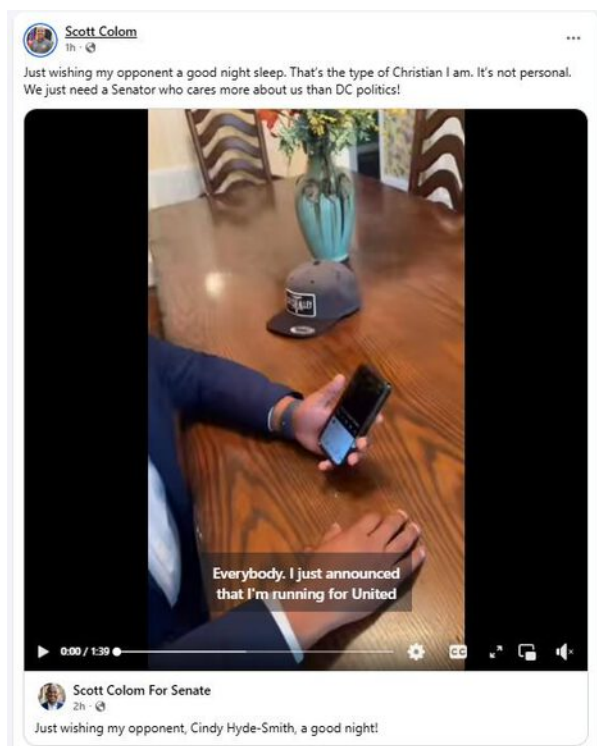
I am copying the U.S. Department of Justice's Fraud Section, as they have supervisory authority of this statute, pursuant to Title 9, Section 9-64.300 of the Justice Manual, and the Acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi, because he is the Chief Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the district where this criminal violation presumably occurred.

Last night, I was made aware of a social media post made by Mississippi Circuit Court Sixteen District Attorney **Scott Colom** of what appears to be a violation of the above statute. In the post, Colom appears to be making a phone call to United States Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, with a voice on the phone sounding like Senator Hyde-Smith.

While some may simply chalk this up to "dirty politics" or expect a politician like Colom to lie, cheat and steal his way into office, without regard to the collateral damage to whomever

gets in his way, impersonating the voice of a sitting United States Senator is not politics as usual and is not something to be taken lightly. Rather, Colom appears to be attempting to falsely impersonate Senator Hyde-Smith and fraudulently use Senator Hyde-Smith's voice to trick people into supporting him, donating to him, and voting for him, that is, to "obtain[] any money, paper, document, or thing of value[.]"

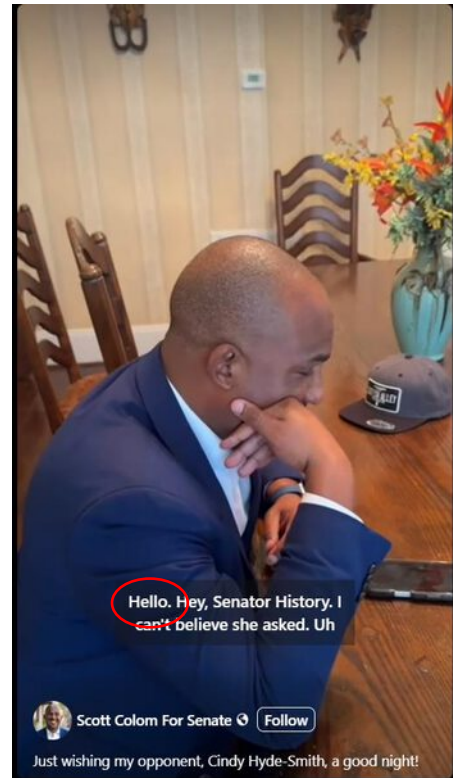
What's worse is that Colom is a sitting District Attorney, the highest law enforcement official in his respective judicial circuit, sharing this lie about Senator Hyde-Smith via his personal Facebook page, where he not only proudly wears his District Attorney insignia on his chest but also lists himself as "Proud DA for 16th Circuit." See <https://www.facebook.com/colomsw>.



If Colom would lie and pretend to be speaking to a United States Senator in order to get likes, follows, support, donations and votes, it begs the question as to what else he would lie about. It also raises questions in the minds of individuals whom he has prosecuted and potentially calls into question his ethical obligations, duties and responsibilities both as a prosecutor and a member of the bar.

The video is posted from his campaign account, where he writes the fraudulent statement, "Just wishing my opponent, Cindy Hyde-Smith, a good night!" In the video, Colom notes that he is running for United States Senate against Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and motions to his phone, which has her name listed therein, appearing to be a saved contact in his phone. He then says, "I'm going to call her and wish her a good night," and proceeds to pretend to call up Senator Hyde-Smith, stating, "Let's see if she answers."

An audible ring is heard in the background, and then a woman's voice is heard saying, "Hello," appearing to have answered the phone call. Colom acts "surprised" and says, "I can't believe she answered," already knowing full well this is in fact NOT Senator Hyde-Smith.



He proceeds to "introduce" himself and wish her a good night. The entire video is creepy and unnerving. Again, you can hear a woman's voice say "Excuse me?" and Colom continues to talk, giving his "best" campaign pitch.

Again, after a long political soliloquy, Colom asks, “Is that ok?” to which the female voice responds, “You’re calling to tell me good night?”



Colom continues to tell the female voice what he is going to do if elected and how she can watch him as an example, to which the woman’s voice responds, “When you’re senator?”

Colom continues his rant, saying something about Ted Cruz and Mitch McConnell, and ends “the call” by dishonestly stating, “Thank you for answering the call and I appreciate it,” to which the female voice supposing to be Senator Hyde-Smith says, “Well, good night,” with Colom derogatorily stating at the end “Bless your heart, ok?”



This conduct is not only unbecoming of a sitting District Attorney, but more concerning is a potential federal crime from which Colom is specifically intending to benefit personally and financially. The U.S. Department of Justice has prosecuted much less serious cases than this, such as the young man prosecuted for impersonating a chief of staff to a U.S. Congressman in order to secure admission and special privileges at a restaurant and field passes to a football game. *See* “Defendant Sought Special Treatment from a Restaurant and Football Team,” <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/district-man-pleads-guilty-federal-charge-impersonating-congressional-chief-staff>.

What we are talking about in this case is a fraud being perpetuated not just against Senator Hyde-Smith but more importantly upon Mississippians (for their votes) and upon the American people (for campaign contributions) in an effort to fraudulently steal an election and glorify Colom. This is despicable conduct for anyone but even more so from a long-time District Attorney who is still holding a grudge for Senator Hyde-Smith correctly refusing to confirm him for a lifetime appointment as a federal judge. This type of action is something we as Americans will not and cannot condone.

Americans expect and demand that campaigns and elections be fair and free from criminal acts. And, without the enforcement of our laws, our democratic republic will suffer greatly. Thus, those who fraudulently impersonate elected United States officials and intentionally violate our laws for their own benefit and personal gain should be held to account and brought to justice. And

no one knows this better than a sitting District Attorney. Shame on Colom for breaking his oath of office and breaking federal law.

Thus, I strongly urge you to investigate this case, enforce our laws, and protect victims as you have all sworn to do. If you have any questions or need anything from me, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Hurst
Chairman
Mississippi Republican Party

DMH:dmh