

William Parker
520 E. Florida Street
Holbrook, AZ 86025

August 2, 2007

Hon. Gary King
New Mexico Attorney General
408 Galisteo Street
Villagra Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Attorney General King,

On June 26, 2007, I sent a letter to Stuart Ashman, Secretary, Department of Cultural Affairs for the State of New Mexico bringing to his attention concerns I have regarding whether I have been wronged by unethical publishing behavior, including plagiarism, on the part of staff members at The New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. As Mr. Ashman is administratively responsible for the museum, I provided him with details of the instances that concerned me in an initial electronic letter and notified him that I was providing supporting documentation in a mailed hard copy. I also asked Mr. Ashman to determine a finding of any wrongdoing.

It is evident from Mr. Ashman's response, that he did not make any serious investigation of my concerns, which he dismissed. His reply came as an electronically sent letter dated June 28, 2007, two days after I sent my original message and one day **prior** to the date that he received the hard copy of the letter and the supporting documentation (see enclosed delivery verification slip). He also threatened me with legal reprisal by your office for a posting made on an internet blog relating to this matter.

I respectfully request that your office will exercise its oversight function and examine my questions about the professional behavior on the part of New Mexico state employees. I have made a similar request to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology where it has been referred to the Ethics Committee, and to the New Mexico State Governor's Office who provides oversight for Mr. Ashman. I have requested a determination on the question of plagiarism from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology because it is the body most qualified to determine this fact from the scientific literature of its discipline and because the New Mexico Museum staff member who is the focus of my concerns is a member of this society.

Clarification on the matter of any reprisal action by your office against me is also respectfully requested. In my view, I should not be placed in jeopardy of legal action or

subjected to unwarranted threats by a New Mexico state official for bringing these questions and other related matters to light.

I enclose copies of the correspondence between Mr. Ashman and myself.

Sincerely,

William Parker
Vertebrate Paleontologist

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