

**OPEN LETTER FROM ATTORNEYS, RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS,  
MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPERTS**

The undersigned lawyers, law students, sexual assault survivors, criminal justice professionals, medical professionals, and activists hereby denounce Assistant Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell's decision to cross-examine Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, a credible survivor of a sexual assault by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, before the Senate Judiciary Committee and, effectively, the entire nation.

Together, we DEMAND THAT MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY BILL MONTGOMERY REPLACE MS. RACHEL MITCHELL AS CHIEF OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT.

The nation watched on September 27, 2018 as Mitchell tore into Dr. Ford, who is currently the highest profile rape survivor in the nation. She chose to heed the partisan call by the Senate Republican leadership to do so, in order to pass through a deeply distrusted nominee for the Supreme Court. Instead of withdrawing Kavanaugh, who has at this point five reported victims, and picking a different judge with the exact same ideological makeup, the Republican leadership decided to send a message to sex crimes victims that they do not matter, and that the powerful #MeToo movement of sexual violence accountability does not stretch into the highest echelons of power. Young girls and women throughout the country now must live with this realization.

Ms. Mitchell did not need to do this, and it was inappropriate for her to do so. Kavanaugh is not on trial, and Ms. Mitchell is not a criminal defense lawyer. It was not her job. Instead, Ms. Mitchell is a veteran sex crimes prosecutor who currently leads the Special Victims Unit of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. She was originally promoted to head the sex crimes department under former Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas, who was later disbarred for trying to criminally frame judges he did not like due to political disagreement. Thomas's co-conspirator in these matters was former Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

As the current Maricopa County Attorney, Bill Montgomery is Ms. Mitchell's boss. He has the authority to change her role in his office and he should do so, in order to restore trust to sexual assault victims who might otherwise not come forward. That trust is important for legitimate law enforcement purposes. Unless Montgomery wants to show the public that he cares about politics more than rape victims, he must do the right thing and demote Mitchell, effective immediately.

Respectfully,

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