

# LAW OFFICES OF SCOTT R. AMES

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

**Writer's e-mail:**  
scott@scottameslaw.com

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 24, 2019

### **PRESS CONTACT:**

Scott Ames, Esq.  
Law Offices of Scott R. Ames, PC  
(310) 478-2500  
[scott@scottameslaw.com](mailto:scott@scottameslaw.com)

Steven J. Kaplan, Esq. (co-counsel)  
Law Offices of Steven J. Kaplan, PC  
(310) 312-1500  
[sjkaplan@sjkaplanlaw.com](mailto:sjkaplan@sjkaplanlaw.com)

## **California Democratic Party Employee Sues Party and Former Party Chair Eric Bauman for Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and other Civil Rights Violations**

**Los Angeles, CA** - California Democratic Party (“CDP”) employee William Floyd filed suit today against the CDP, the Los Angeles County Democratic Party (“LACDP”), and their former Chair Eric Bauman, alleging unlawful sexual assault and battery, sexual harassment, and other civil rights violations. Mr. Floyd's complaint alleges that Mr. Bauman forced him to submit to oral sex on three separate occasions against his will and without his consent. The complaint also alleges that Mr. Bauman repeatedly groped Mr. Floyd and made inappropriate sexual comments to and about him throughout Mr. Floyd's employment with the CDP and LACDP. Mr. Floyd's complaint was filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court, Stanley Mosk Courthouse. A copy of the Complaint is attached to this press release.

William Floyd is a 28-year old gay man who, since high school, had his heart set on working in politics. In 2015, he landed a job as Assistant to LACDP Chair Eric Bauman. Mr. Bauman, now

60, was known for drinking alcohol throughout the day, making lewd and inappropriate sexual remarks to Party employees and volunteers, and for inappropriately touching Party employees and volunteers. In 2017, Mr. Bauman was elected Chair of the CDP, despite the protests of some elected officials and Party activists who knew about and reported his inappropriate behavior. Immediately after the Party election, the CDP hired Mr. Floyd to be Mr. Bauman's assistant.

On three separate occasions while Mr. Bauman was Chair of the LACDP and then the CDP, he sexually molested Mr. Floyd. Mr. Bauman performed oral sex on Mr. Floyd once when he was sleeping while at a Party conference, and on two occasions Mr. Bauman used his position of authority over Mr. Floyd and forced him to unzip his pants so that Mr. Bauman could perform oral sex on him, against his will.

Eric Bauman also engaged in ongoing severe and pervasive acts of sexual harassment. He constantly placed his hands on Mr. Floyd's thighs and genital area while Mr. Floyd was driving him to and from business events. He also made repeated inappropriate comments about Mr. Floyd's appearance, like "your ass looks good in those khakis" and "I'd like to slide up that" (referring to Mr. Floyd's buttocks). He also told Mr. Floyd that he had anally raped him during the first sexual assault. Details of Mr. Bauman's behavior are described in the Complaint.

In November 2018, Mr. Floyd complained to the CDP that Mr. Bauman had sexually assaulted and harassed him. Mr. Bauman resigned from his chairmanship later that month. On December 11, 2018, Mr. Floyd met with the CDP's hired investigator Debra Hinshaw Vierra, told her that Mr. Bauman sexually assaulted him on three separate occasions, and told her about the numerous other incidents of sexual harassment perpetrated by Mr. Bauman.

Mr. Floyd is still employed with the CDP, but neither the CDP nor LACDP has acknowledged that Mr. Floyd was the victim of Mr. Bauman's violent sexual assaults and illegal behavior, nor have they acknowledged the harm that they and Mr. Bauman caused Mr. Floyd.

"Maybe I was naïve, but I really thought that, by working for the Democratic Party, I could help advance the causes I believed in," said **Plaintiff William Floyd**. "But winning elections became so important that Party leadership just ignored Eric's drinking and his vicious attacks on people. Most of us lived in fear of him. A few people cared, but their voices were drowned out by so

many others who didn't want to cross Eric or do anything to stop him. No one from the Party has even apologized to me for what happened.”

“If anyone should be vigilant about enforcement of workplace sexual harassment and civil rights laws, it's the California Democratic Party,” said **Attorney Scott Ames**, one of William Floyd's lawyers. “Yet the Party has stonewalled our client and not done anything to rectify the situation. Our civil rights laws say an employer has a duty to prevent and remedy harassment, but the Defendants let it go on for years. Mr. Floyd is showing a lot of courage in bringing this lawsuit, and I hope doing so will help him heal from the unspeakable trauma he has suffered.”

“We hope that this will be a wake-up call that no one - not even a progressive organization like the California Democratic Party - is immune from the scourge of sexual harassment and sexual predators,” said **Attorney Steven J. Kaplan**, Mr. Floyd's second lawyer. “Rhetoric alone is not enough. The Party - like all employers - must take the rights of their employees seriously and protect them from bosses who believe their positions of power somehow give them a license to abuse their employees.”

-end-